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Chirac routed: bourse reacts favourably

Mitterrand re-elected

PARIS, May 9. (Reuters): Socialist Francois Mitterrand, dealing the right its hardest blow in 30 years, has won a landmark second term as President of France and become undisputed master of the political centre.

Mitterrand, 71, scored 53.9 per cent in Sunday's election rout over the conservative forces of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, who took 46.09 per cent in the worst result for the right since the Fifth Republic was formed in 1958.

Chirac, in keeping with French tradition, is due to hand in his government's resignation. He offered to resign tomorrow. Mitterrand aides said they expected a new prime minister to be named as early as tomorrow.

Former Agriculture Minister Michel Rocard, a moderate socialist, is widely tipped as the most likely choice.

"You have chosen to place your confidence in me," Mitterrand said on television 52 minutes after polls closed, as carloads of klaxon-blinging supporters sped cheering through central Paris and crowds of socialists sprayed champagne into the evening air.

Unity

"Therefore I will carry on the mission whose burden and grandeur I have already known for seven years, but which, renewed, commits me to do what I must to unite all those French who want to be united."

Mitterrand effectively neutralised the Communist Party after coming to power with its support in 1981. His march into the centre



Mitterrand gives a kiss to a supporter after winning the presidential election.

on Sunday scattered the right, cementing a fundamental change in the political landscape he has long sought for France.

The main obstacle facing Mitterrand is creating a parliamentary majority in the National Assembly where Chirac's centrist coalition has a four-seat edge.

Amid hints that centrists would be prepared to cooperate with or even join a moderate Mitterrand government, Chirac's tough-talking campaign strategists, Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, urged conservatives not to compromise with the left.

He urged them to "stick together for new battles... one campaign is over. New battles loom on the horizon."

With centrist collaboration, the new government could take office without a dissolution of Parliament. But if defeated on a motion of confidence in the days to come, Mitterrand would have to call a snap general election.

Pledge

Chirac, 55, leader of the neo-Gaullist RPR (Rally for the Republic) conceded defeat within minutes of the first com-

Mitterrand, rejecting a perceived appeal to racism in Le Pen's shock result, pledged "liberty, equality and fraternity" the motto of the 1789 French Revolution.

Financial markets reacted favourably today to the re-election of Mitterrand.

The French franc was steady while the stock market was steady to higher in calm trading shortly after the exchange opened. The general market indicator was up 1.06 per cent after 30 minutes of trading.

Currency traders said the franc's steady opening level was expected since Mitterrand's economic policies are not viewed as differing widely from those of Chirac.

Greeted

HH the Amir of Kuwait today sent a cable of congratulations to Mitterrand on his re-election.

Western Europe greeted Mitterrand's re-election as French President with varying degrees of approval, the left hailing it as a major triumph and right-wingers accepting it resignedly.

Spain's socialist government welcomed Mitterrand's win and looked forward to closer relations with France. "We hope that relations, which have been very good during his first term, will not only be maintained but will become even deeper," government spokesman Javier Solana told Reuters.

In Lisbon, Portuguese President Mario Soares, a socialist, sent a telegram of congratulations to Mitterrand, a personal friend, within minutes of the outcome.

—(Continued on Page 2)

Shoot violators on sight order

Karachi under curfew after 32 die in riots

KARACHI, May 9. (Reuters): Pakistani troops enforced a curfew in more areas of Karachi today after a fresh wave of ethnic violence killed at least 32 people and injured more than 150.

The soldiers, with orders to shoot curfew violators on sight, patrolled riot-hit districts of Pakistan's biggest city and witnesses said police searched houses for weapons used in gunbattles yesterday between rival Pashtun and mohajir ethnic groups.

Extended

Doctors at hospitals said 32 of the dead and most of the injured came from a northern Karachi district where authorities clamped on an Army-supervised curfew at noon yesterday.

The curfew was extended to more areas in northern and western parts of the city. Last week, the western Karachi district of Orangi was put under curfew to stop rioting that killed 14 people.

Government officials put yesterday's fatalities at 15, but doctors said more injured people had

died later, pushing the figure to 36, and raising the death toll in 10 days of ethnic violence in Karachi to 40.

Seven policemen were among those killed in Khawaja Ajmer Nagri. They were caught in crossfire as they tried to dislodge Pashtun gunmen firing from a hill, police and witnesses said.

Three people died in the western district of Nazimabad, before the curfew was ordered there at night, and one person was killed in the Mangopir neighbourhood, police said.

Rioters set fire to two markets, a bank and several vehicles in Nazimabad, residents said.

Start

The rioting at Orangi was sparked off on April 29 by a road accident, in which two motorcyclists were killed, but the cause of yesterday's violence was not immediately clear.

Reports in some local newspapers said the trouble started at Khawaja Ajmer Nagri when a man tore up a greeting card bearing the picture of the mohajir

community leader Altaf Husain. Some residents said the clashes started after some gunmen fired into a street on Saturday night.

Since October 1986, more than 400 people have died in Karachi, the capital of the southern province of Sind, in clashes between Pashtuns from northwestern Pakistan and mohajir immigrants from India.

Promise

Yesterday's violence was the worst since Sind Chief Minister Ghous Ali Shah resigned on April 6 after critics charged that he had failed to control acts of lawlessness in the volatile province.

Shah was replaced by Akhtar Ali Kazi who said maintenance of the peace would be his first priority.

Kazi, in a televised interview last night, promised stern action against what he called a handful of troublemakers and said the situation would be normal in a few days.

Government urged to grant permanent residence

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Planning has urged the government to develop and implement a plan for granting permanent residence to expatriates after taking the current Kuwaiti population into consideration.

According to statistics, the average rate of growth among Kuwaitis during 1985-86 was 4.9 per cent compared to six per cent for non-Kuwaitis. If growth continues at this rate the Kuwaiti population will represent only 38.9 per cent of the total population by 1990, dropping from 40.1 per cent in 1985.

The Ministry of Planning report on the achievements in the first year of the 1985-90 Five-

Year-Plan indicated that a drop in the number of births and marriages during the first year of the plan contributed to this significant drop.

Housing demands, however, increased, adding to the growing housing problem.

The ministry recommended that more emphasis be placed on infant mortality and that greater attention be given to mothers and infants, especially in the area of medical care.

Expatriate manpower increased by nine per cent during the first year of the Five-Year-Plan and the number of maids and servants increased during the same period by 28 per cent, in

spite of efforts to restrict growth in this area.

Recommendations were made to further restrict the influx of domestic servants and relatives joining family members already in the country.

Regarding granting Kuwaiti nationality, recommendations were made to follow carefully defined regulations based on the needs of the country and security conditions.

The ministry recommended that the Kuwait University and the Institute of Applied Education and Training cooperate with each other in an effort to train national manpower to replace expatriates.

Recommendations were also made to encourage women to work in the private sector and that local bandierafis be developed.

The ministry suggested that the organisational structure in ministries be totally restructured and that every effort be made to eliminate unnecessary positions and personnel.

According to the Five-Year-Plan evaluation the government had successfully found alternate income sources and were further developing investments in economic fields by distributing industrial and agricultural ventures among Kuwaitis.

Awad to remain in jail

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 9. (Agencies): The supreme court ruled today that Mubarak Awad, the Arab-American ordered to leave Israel, will remain in jail until the hearing on his deportation in 12 days.

The panel of three judges set the hearing for May 23, after accepting a statement from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the acting minister of interior, which said Awad's release from jail would endanger Israel's security.

However, they turned down the prosecution's request to deport Awad immediately and hear his appeal in his absence.

The court turned down an offer by Awad's lawyers, Jonathan Kuttab and Avraham Gal, to release Awad in return for a promise to refrain from speaking in public and paying for a police guard to supervise his actions.

Pressure

The US is putting pressure to allow Awad to remain in his East Jerusalem home.

US Secretary of State George Shultz sent a message to Shamir urging him to withdraw the expulsion order, Israel Radio said.

Shultz was angered by Shamir's decision to expel Awad, the radio said.

Israeli troops, meanwhile, shot dead one Palestinian and wounded three in the occupied West Bank.

Members of Egyptian political parties and unions plan to cross into Israel on May 27, at the head of an Arab peace march in support of Palestinians in the occupied territories, organisers said in Cairo yesterday.

In a separate development, an official Palestinian source, today denied that the assassins of late Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir have taken any papers or documents with them when they stormed his home and assassinated him last April 16.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka has condemned the killing of Al Wazir and supported the resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council on April 25, condemning the aggression committed against the sovereignty of Tunisia.

4 killed in clashes in Golden Temple

AMRITSAR, India, May 9. (Reuters): Sikh separatists fought a running gunbattle with police in the Golden Temple here today killing four people and wounding at least seven, including a senior policeman, witnesses said.

Police fired light machine guns into the temple, the Sikh's holiest shrine, after separatists shot a paramilitary police commander in the face critically injuring him.

The witnesses said the gunbattle began at 1.15 pm (0745 GMT) and sporadic firing continued into the evening. The dead, all passers-by, included three worshippers and an Indian Red Cross worker.

At least seven people, including the police officer and a journalist — one of seven trapped in the crossfire for seven hours — were injured, witnesses said.

Police firing from six rooftop emplacements sprayed bullets into the sprawling temple complex, the witnesses said.

Several bullets hit the holiest building of the complex, the gold-sheeted Harmandir Sahib, in the middle of a sacred pool, where the holy book of the Sikhs is enshrined.

Police, however, did not enter the temple.

Gunmen have intensified their campaign for an independent Sikh homeland in Punjab killing more than 850 people so far this year compared with 1,228 in all of 1987.

Police in the Punjab state capital Chandigarh said a police party led by paramilitary police commander S.S. Virk approached militants fortifying a house outside the complex perimeter but just behind the Akal Takht, the complex's second most sacred building.

Shot

The witnesses said a young militant fired a single shot, hitting Virk in the jaw.

"After that it was total bedlam," one witness said. Extremists fired from positions on the temple complex's walls.

Police sealed off the area and clamped a curfew on Amritsar's walled city. Witnesses said sharpshooters with night-vision devices were posted on rooftops overlooking the temple while armed separatists took shelter in the galleries surrounding the holy pool.

"We don't have any plan to enter the temple," a police official in Amritsar said.

Fahd will visit Egypt

CAIRO, May 9. (UPI): King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will pay an official visit to Cairo in the first half of June — the first of its kind since the Arab quarrel with Egypt nine years ago over its peace treaty with Israel, the semi-official Middle East News Agency has said.

The agency said Fahd will lead a "large delegation" for the visit and will have talks with President Hosni Mubarak on "the latest Arab and international developments."

The two leaders also will work for "promoting relations between the two countries in all fields," the agency said.

The majority of Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, broke off diplomatic relations with Egypt in 1979 to protest its peace treaty with Israel.

Support

Last November's Arab League summit in Amman, Jordan, authorised the League's member-states to restore relations on a bilateral basis with Egypt. With the exception of Syria, Lebanon, Libya and Algeria, all Arab states have reopened ties with Cairo now.

Mubarak visited Saudi Arabia and five other Arab Gulf states in January to show off Egyptian support against Iranian threats.

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US divers explode mine in Gulf

MANAMA, Bahrain, May 9. (Agencies): US Navy divers have exploded a mine found drifting in the northern Gulf by the missile frigate Simpson amid widespread jitters about Iran's vow to avenge its defeat by the US Navy last month.

The mine found on Sunday was the first discovered in the area since the US missile frigate Samuel Roberts was nearly sunk by a mine last month.

Navy spokesman Lt. Cmdr Mark van Dyke told a Pentagon media pool that the Simpson reported the mine was about 85 miles (136 kilometres) southwest of Farsi Island, where the Iranians have a military base. Navy divers detonated it an hour later.

Type

Van Dyke said the mine was of an encrusted Myam-type that apparently had broken loose from its mooring.

The Myam is smaller than the type of mine containing 250 pounds (550 kilograms) of explosives that holed the Roberts on April 14 off Qatar, 140 miles (225 kms) southeast of Farsi, wounding 10 crewmen.

President Ronald Reagan has accused Iran of laying the mines



Shahbazi: chief of staff

In other Gulf war developments, analysts said yesterday the weekend ousting of Iranian military Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Ismail Sobrabi indicates he has been blamed for Iran's defeat by Iraqi troops on the strategic Faw peninsula last month.

Sobrabi's removal was announced on Saturday in Tehran by Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini, who in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the Iranian armed forces, appointed Ali Shahbazi to the post of chief of staff, promoting him from the rank of colonel to brigadier general.

Coordination

The Iranian President has called on the regular Army and Revolutionary Guards to work more closely together, the Iranian news agency Irna reported today.

President Hojatoleslam Ali Khomeini, head of the Supreme Defence Council, urged cooperation by the two forces when he swore in Shahbazi.

The Revolutionary Guards and the Basij, a voluntary force numbering hundreds of thousands, have borne the brunt of the 7-1/2-year-old war against Iraq since the purge of senior regular Army officers after the Islamic revolution that ousted the Shah in 1979.

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Drives blindfolded

GIARDINI NAXOS, Sicily, May 9. (Reuters): An Italian conjurer drove blindfolded around the Sicilian town at the weekend confounding critics who scoffed at his earlier attempt that ended with him crashing into a tree.

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INTERNATIONAL

Kohl's party discusses loss in state polls

BONN, May 9, (AP): Stunned leaders of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling Christian Democrats gathered today after their party was ousted from power in state elections in Schleswig-Holstein for the first time in 38 years.

The party's top officials, led by Kohl, met in Bonn to discuss the damage done to the conservative Christian Democrats in Sunday's elections in the northern West German state.

The results marked one of the worst defeats for the ruling party since Kohl took office five years ago.

The Schleswig-Holstein poll also was a decisive victory for the opposition Social Democrats, who had lost ground in a string of state elections over the past 18 months.

While the Schleswig-Holstein election will have little immediate effect on Kohl's coalition government in Bonn, it will boost the Social Democrats' flagging morale nationwide.

The results may also increase bickering with Kohl's often fractious three-party federal coalition.

They will also narrow, but leave intact, the Christian Democratic majority in the Bundestag, or upper house of the West German Parliament.

Unofficial results showed the Christian Democrats polled 33.3 per cent of the vote, which was called to break the stalemate in the state's government that followed an inconclusive election in September 1987.

In the September vote, the Christian Democrats had polled 42.6 per cent of the vote.

Ranking Christian Democratic officials moved quickly last Sunday to play down their party's loss in the elections. They blamed much of the unexpectedly weak results on the Barchel affair.

After September's vote, neither party could garner enough seats in political manoeuvring to form an absolute majority or elect a governor at the head of a coalition.

Barchel stayed on in the interim, but resigned when the dirty tricks campaign was revealed by one of his aides in late September.

Death toll rises to 111

Hand-to-hand fighting in Beirut

BEIRUT, May 9, (AP): Rival Shiite Muslim militias were locked in hand-to-hand combat for control of high-rise buildings in the south Beirut slums today and doctors reported firefights by wild-eyed gunmen in a hospital.

Police said 22 people were killed and 75 wounded, many of them civilians, as the fighting raged for the fourth day, with both sides using tanks, mortars and rockets.

That raised the overall toll to 111 dead and 292 wounded since the fighting between the Amal militia and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah broke out at dawn on Friday.

Ambush

Most of the 18 foreign hostages in Lebanon are believed to be held by extremists in the labyrinthine slums.

The fighting flared after two weekend ceasefires collapsed in the battle for control of slums that stretch for 16 square miles

(40 sq kilometers) along Beirut's southern edge.

The clashes were triggered when four Amal men were killed in a street ambush. Amal blamed Hezbollah.

Gunbattles flared in the Al-Sabeh Hospital, where a doctor said surgeons were forced by battle-shaken militiamen to operate at gunpoint on dead comrades "to bring them to life."

One woman doctor, speaking on condition of anonymity, said rival gunmen had shot it out inside the hospital.

Control

"We've been forced many times to abandon casualties because of gunfights in the emergency ward," she said.

Doctors confirmed allegations by both sides that wounded fighters have been dragged from ambulances and hospitals by their rivals and slaughtered.

Amal and the Hezbollah fighters, who are loyal to Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, have long

been bitter foes in a struggle for control of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shiites, the country's largest single sect.

Police said Hezbollah fighters, wearing red headbands, appeared to have gained considerable ground in the densely populated Ghobeiri, Bir El-Abed, Hay Madi and Meshrafieh neighbourhoods.

Much of the fighting centered on high-rise buildings used by both sides as strongpoints and sniper nests.

The fundamentalist Hezbollah is believed to be the umbrella for extremist Shiite factions holding most of the kidnapped foreigners in Lebanon.

There has been no indication of the captives' fate since the fighting broke out.

"God willing, we will liberate Hay Madi and Bir El-Abed and free all the foreign hostages," said Amal fighter Tarek Saad as he trained his shoulder-fired rocket launcher at Hezbollah positions in Hay Madi. "We

know they're imprisoned there."

Thunderous shell blasts shook Beirut all night as both sides mounted grenade-throwing forays against each other's strongpoints behind barrages of fire from tanks, mortars and multi-barrelled rocket launchers.

Amal's irregulars, with green or black headbands, control most of the districts of Haret Hreik, Mreji, Roweiss, Shiyah and Kaskass, a police spokesman said.

"Hezbollah has established control over half of the slums. It only controlled one-third before the current fighting," the spokesman said.

A ceasefire broke down after 16 hours. Syrian and Iranian mediators called another ceasefire for Sunday. But the fighting raged on and intensified after midnight.

Beirut's leftist As Safir newspaper said the current confrontation has set the stage for the Syrian Army to move into the slums to disarm the two militias.

Crackdown on mail-order brides

CEBU, Philippines, May 9, (Reuters): A Philippine archbishop has cracked down on mail-order brides by banning marriages between foreigners and local women unless the grooms obtain clearance from the church.

Cardinal Ricardo Vidal issued the order following reports of exploitation of the brides by their foreign husbands, a church spokesman said today.

Roman Catholics form about 85 per cent of the population in the Philippines.

Newspapers in Cebu, the country's second-largest city, every day carry hundreds of advertisements from foreigners bunting for brides.

Philippine officials have said some match-making bureaux are syndicates forcing the women into prostitution.

The spokesman said Vidal, head of the Cebu Archdiocese covering four central provinces, told local priests in a recent meeting not to solemnise any marriage application specifying his background was confirmed by a bishop in the man's native country.

Complete figures are not available on how many marriages have been arranged by mail-order clubs but a Manila-based marriage agency said recently it had arranged 12,000 marriages.



● Former White House chief of staff Donald Regan holds a copy of his book, "For the Record", in which he says that virtually every major move and decision the Reagans made was cleared in advance with a female astrologer. (Reuters wirephoto)

Polish workers turn down a compromise

GDANSK, May 9, (AP): Striking shipyard workers today rejected a compromise that would have forced them to end their weeklong strike and drop their demand for legalisation of Solidarity in exchange for a pay raise.

"There is no freedom without Solidarity," the workers chanted at a rally this morning after rejecting the compromise offered by management following a four-hour negotiating session with the strike committee, union sources said.

The tentative deal had taken shape in talks revived at the initiative of a politburo member on Sunday, strike leaders said. Interior Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak, a ranking Communist Party politburo member, twice telephoned a lawyer acting as a mediator to revive the talks after they broke down late Sunday afternoon, according to

accounts given by strike committee members.

The conversations between Kiszczak and lawyer Wladyslaw Sila-Nowicki, a former Solidarity member who has since agreed to serve on Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski's consultative citizens' council, led to new talks.

As a result, the strike committee wrote a letter to management on Sunday in which it agreed to end the strike and postpone its long-term goal of reinstating Solidarity under the following conditions:

— Guarantee of safe passage from the shipyard for strikers and the people who have assisted them.

— Promises of no disciplinary action against strikers, including fines, dismissals or prosecutions.

— A wage increase of 538 on the average monthly wage of the last three months, or about \$105.

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Pope visits 'land of cocaine'

LA PAZ, May 9, (Reuters): Pope John Paul II arrived today in Bolivia, one of Latin America's poorest countries known for its cocaine, inflation and military coups.

Bolivia is passing through a quiet period in its turbulent history, which according to some specialists includes up to 190 coups by the armed forces and more recently an annual inflation rate of more than 23,000 per cent.

But its tradition of protest continues, and in honour of the papal visit more than 5,000 people suspended a hunger strike at the weekend against the free market policies of centre-right President, 80-year-old Victor

Paz Estenssoro.

The Bolivian government, which has devoted much of its energy since 1985 to cutting the inflation rate to less than 10 per cent a year, one of the lowest in Latin America, has also won a breathing space from two political scandals during the six-day visit.

Retired military officers have promised to make no further accusations concerning links between senior politicians and Bolivia's top cocaine trafficker, nor about the involvement of the foreign minister in the kidnapping of the last president until after Pope John Paul leaves the country.

The pontiff's immediate

problem when he landed in this city, nestled in a cleft of the high plain of the Andes Mountain chain, was the altitude—at 4,058 metres (13,400 feet) the pressure overwhelms the unsuspecting visitor.

Shopkeepers say the Catholic Church was rented all the available oxygen bottles in the city for the Vatican party and the Pope's schedule includes much longer rest periods than on previous Latin American tours.

The Pope is expected to speak out against drug trafficking during his visit—his first to Bolivia, which narcotics experts say produces the coca leaf raw material for almost half the world's illicit cocaine.

Mitterrand re-elected

(Continued from Page 1)

"The Portuguese people and myself offer you the warmest congratulations on this occasion, historic for both France and Europe," Soares said.

British opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock said: "This is a great victory for Francois Mitterrand and the French socialists and a hammer-blow for the right—especially for the racist right."

A spokesman for Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she was not expected to make any immediate comment but might send a standard congratulatory message to Mitterrand in due course.

In Vienna, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, a socialist, hailed Mitterrand's re-election as a "great day for European social democracy," the Chancellor's office said in a statement.

He was particularly pleased that Chirac's signals to the right-wing camp had obviously had no success, the statement said.

Italy's Social Democrat leader Antonio Cirielli, whose party is among the five in Italy's ruling coalition, said in a statement: "It is a splendid victory for someone who has been able to reconcile the principles of reformist socialism with the national interests of the French Republic. We can learn something in Italy from Mitterrand's plan to bring together centrists and reformist socialists."

NEWS IN BRIEF

21 Turks killed

ANKARA, May 9, (Reuters): Kurdish rebels killed 21 Turkish villagers in three attacks in Turkey's troubled southeast at the weekend, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said today.

The rebels, members of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), gunned down 10 civilians in the hamlet of Behmenin near Nusaybin in the south-eastern Mardin province last night, the agency said.

Tourist murdered

ISTANBUL, May 9, (Reuters): Two thieves stabbed to death a British tourist and stole his car in a weekend attack in Istanbul, police sources said today.

The semi-official Anatolian news agency said two unemployed 18-year-old men, both former cake shop workers, would be charged with the murder of Peter Holden, aged 40, and with theft.

AIDS tests

TAIPEI, May 9, (Reuters): All foreign students will be required to take an AIDS test before entering Taiwan universities starting this year, an Education Department spokesman said today.

He said in an interview that the government was also considering mandatory tests for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome for overseas students already here.

Funeral march

MANILA, May 9, (Reuters): The Philippine military today gave soldiers permission to join a funeral march for deposed ruler Ferdinand Marcos's mother and said it doubted any group would exploit the burial to stir up political turmoil.

Earlier, Armed Forces chief General Renato De Villa pledged security for any of Marcos's children who might want to attend, but a spokesman for the ex-president said he doubted any of them would come.

Mass killings

MOSCOW, May 9, (Reuters): Josef Stalin's top aide Andrei Zhdanov organised Nazi-style mass killings of alleged "enemies of the people" in a major provincial city during the bloody purges of the 1930s, a Soviet journal said at the weekend.

The weekly Ogonyok said the massacres took place in Ufa, capital of Bashkiria, after a purge supervised by Zhdanov, Stalin's heir-apparent in the early 1940s. He died in 1948 and is still officially honoured in Moscow.

Angola talks

JOHANNESBURG, May 9, (Reuters): South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha will hold talks with Angolan officials in Congo this week on a Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola, the Foreign Ministry announced today.

It will be the first time a South African minister has held a formal meeting in black Africa, apart from neighbouring states, since May 1984.

Politician killed

COLOMBO, May 9, (Reuters): Unidentified gunmen shot dead an opposition candidate for local council elections in Sri Lanka while he was addressing a meeting, the military said today.

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No plans to raise electricity prices at present: Rqobah

By Fathima Ahmed

KUWAIT'S Minister of Electricity and Water, Dr Homoud Abdullah Al Rqobah, says there is an urgent need to form a long term strategy to preserve and avoid wastage of "non-renewable energy resources."

Al Rqobah did not elaborate but said he is concerned about the amount of water and electricity wasted by consumers. "They must not waste energy. It is a non-renewable resource and a vital life-line," he stressed.

"By avoiding wastage, we can bring down production costs, slow down expansion," he told the Arab Times in an exclusive interview.

Due to the high cost of production, there were reports that MEW might put up charges. Al Rqobah, replying to a question, said MEW has no plan, for the time being, to raise electricity prices.

Lowest
Electricity costs in Kuwait are the lowest in the world at two fils per unit, but costs 20 fils per unit to be produced. The government heavily subsidises electricity production, paying more than 90 per cent of the total cost.

In 1986, MEW studied a proposal to raise unit costs to about 14 fils per unit. The proposal was shelved, but recent reports said that MEW is once again studying a rise in prices.

Al Rqobah, without committing himself, however, hinted at the possibility of a gradual increase in the unit cost of electricity in future.

Minimise
"If we raise the price, it would be gradual increase, depending on the amount of units consumed per month."

The unit cost would range from two fils per unit to 12 fils maximum, with 5 fils and 7 fils per unit for consumers using a

specified amount of electricity. "If there is any increase, it would be to minimise wastage, and not to earn money," said the minister.

MEW is concerned about the per capita consumption of power, which is the highest in the world. Last year, per capita consumption was 9,744 kWh. In the last 30 years, it has risen 10-fold. Today, there are some 243,202 users, consuming 346m watts in 1987. About 47.5 per cent of total generated power is used in homes; while industry consumes 14.6 per cent. A total of 65 per cent of power is consumed during May to August, mainly for air-conditioning.

Export
Despite wastage, Kuwait is in a position to "export electrical energy" to neighbouring Gulf states. Under a scheme to link the electric networks in GCC states, Kuwait would supply electricity in "emergencies." The idea mooted in the early 1983 is known as the GCC grid project.

The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research first studied its feasibility. Recently a second study costing \$1 million, began to find the "best way" to link the GCC networks. The study would be completed in a year.

"Another study is being done to find out the best way to connect the network cable," he said. How the project will shape up, he said, depends on the outcome of a further study.

Water
On water supply, he said: "Kuwait has made an emergency water supply plan." Under the plan, water is being stored in special reservoirs for use in an emergency. About 130.6 million gallons of fresh water were consumed daily in 1987. Consumption has grown at the rate of 4.9 per cent between 1983 and 1987. Maximum consumption grew at the rate of 6.8 per cent over the



Al Rqobah

last five years. In summer, 200 million gallons per day are consumed. In winter, consumption falls to 90 million gallons.

Apart from reservoirs at home, Kuwait has plans to bring fresh river water from Iraq. Completed plans were at an implementation stage for the Iraq Pipeline project, which was delayed. Recently, another study has been instituted to study the feasibility of the project.

Pipeline
Al Rqobah said: "This new study will enable us to determine the intake of water, pipeline path, length of the pipe, diameter and the economy of the project." The study is to be completed within seven months and would also indicate the economic feasibility of the project.

He did not comment on the pipeline route, or if there is a chance of relocating it, but added: "We are examining the project from all angles. We don't know which proposal we'll accept, but it would be a proposal with maximum intake from the river."

Replying to a question about the safety of the pipeline, Al

Rqobah said: "Of course, we are concerned about sabotage. We'll take every measure to protect the pipeline from our side and so will our neighbour, Iraq."

Recently, Turkey proposed the "Peace Pipeline" to supply fresh water to Kuwait and other Gulf states. Al Rqobah said: "We'll wait and see how the study evolves."

Discolouration
Utill alternatives are found, Kuwait will produce its own fresh water, and is exerting efforts to improve the quality of potable water. Fresh water reserves are to be doubled to meet future demands.

Al Rqobah said a survey is to be done in the Shurbaik Area to find out if the "water is clear."

Reddish coloured water has been a cause of concern for both the ministry and consumers. Discolouration occurs after desalination, and is caused by contamination.

Recently, a new method of desalination has been started. "We are doing what nature does. And we believe, water is becoming cleaner and cleaner."

Change

The outcome of the survey, to be reviewed shortly, would determine how effective the new desalination method has been.

Plans are afoot to change the entire water pipeline network in Kuwait. Officials believe that as the "pipes are very old," they are contaminating water. Efforts are also under way to provide direct piped water to homes around Kuwait.

By the year end, Kuwait will press into service the Sahab power station, multiplying the power production capacity.

Such efforts to increase the production of electricity and water would be more successful if "consumers did not waste the resources," said the minister.

Palestinian participation in peace conference

A PALESTINIAN official yesterday stressed that the PLO only accepts one of two forms of Palestinian representation in the proposed international peace conference to solve the Middle East crisis.

In a statement to a Kuwaiti daily, published here yesterday, Abu Ali Mustafa, assistant secretary-general of the Popular Front and member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive Committee said the forms are an independent Palestinian delegation on equal footing with the other parties or a joint Arab delegation with a united Arab stance.

Abu Ali was denying recent reports that the PLO has accepted to a Palestinian representa-

tion through a joint dual delegation with an Arab country.

He underlined that the PLO did not sign any agreement on such issue, pointing out that a new round of Syrian - PLO talks will begin in the Syrian capital within the few coming days.

Asked about the inter-Palestinian fighting between Fatah and Abu Mousa groups in Beirut's refugee camps, Abu Ali accused some quarters, who he said were affected by the Palestinian-Syrian rapprochement, for being behind the fighting. The official did not name those quarters, however.

He said the fighting did not have any effect on the Syrian-Palestinian or the Palestinian-Palestinian dialogue, pointing out that all Palestinian ranks denounce such irresponsible behaviour.

In response to a question, Abu Ali expressed hope that positive results would be reached, when talks between the national reconciliation committee of the PLO and ranks of the salvation front are resumed.

Contract signed

THE Ministry of Electricity and Water yesterday signed a contract with a foreign company to supply and install electricity lines in Sabbiya.

The KD24.5 million contract is the first phase of constructing a major power plant in the area. It is to be completed in 32 months.

Soil testing vital to avoid land cave-in: Shaheen

DR Ibrahim Majed Al Shaheen, the director general of the National Housing Authority commented that, to avoid land cave-in, soil testing before construction is essential, including compaction at different stages to solidify soil and attain the stipulated strength.

Government labs and testing station at the Ministry of Public Works had validated the soil strength in Dhahar and the international team of experts' first task would be to inspect the safety of structures in Dhahar, he stated.

Al Shaheen stated that as building designs were based on soil tests, selection of land for con-

struction and building projects was a vital role in the allocation of plots. Further, he stated, that land depressions were due to insufficient soil compaction and disposal of waste water which, in minor cases was remediable through recompaction. He added that the National Housing Authority was not in a position to give justifications for geological land depressions not confined to Dhahar area. He concluded, "should the findings of the team of experts indicate errors, those responsible would be called upon to vindicate themselves."

Co-op stresses rationalisation policy

THE deputy chairman of the Cooperative Societies Union Mishari Al Ameer said that the union's policy aimed at rationalisation and was designed to protect the consumer.

He was commenting on the specific claims published recently on the union's failure for the third time to provide the societies with "Qamaruddin". He clarified that these consumer items were of a seasonal nature and were thus exported by specific exporters. Consequently, due to the rationalisation policy, it was decided to import these commodities directly without the involvement of a go-between.

Awadi returns

PLANNING Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi returned home Sunday night following a visit to Geneva to which he attended celebrations of the World Health Organisation on the 10th anniversary of Alma-Ata declaration.

The world health leaders held a meeting in Alma-Ata, a city in the Soviet Union, during which they agreed that massive investment in primary health programmes should be made in order to reach the objective of health for all in 2000.

Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi represented the Mediterranean region in these celebrations.

Plan to set up health units at clinics

THE chairman of Kuwait's Cooperative Societies Union, Ali Abu Hadidah, said that he had discussed with the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Naeed Al Naqbi, plans to set up allied health units at clinics in an effort to alleviate some of the pressures on hospitals. The cooperative societies would help to finance such a project.

In an interview with the daily Al Sayyash, Ali Hadidah said that a four-man committee had been formed to study the project which had been widely supported.

He explained that the real objective of the project was to increase the number of medical specialists available to the public. Ali Hadidah went on to say that total sales at the cooperative societies last year was KD199 million and that KD1.5 million had been allocated for social work.

He added that the cooperatives give priority to local products and that sales at societies represent about 70 per cent of consumer goods sold.

Al Hoss sends message to Bahraini Amir

MANAMA, May 9, (Kuna). Bahraini Amir, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa has received a message from Lebanese acting Prime Minister Salm Al Hoss, dealing with the situation in Lebanon.

The message was received by Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, during his meeting with Lebanese deputy consul in Manama, Wael Salam, yesterday.

Old building to be destroyed

INFORMED sources state that the municipal affairs committee have agreed to the proposal of destroying old building of Fish and Meat Market in Mubarak-iyah area. The rebuilding of the market, according to sources, would be in keeping with old Kuwaiti architecture.

Ex-Aramco employee sets up scholarship fund

JEDDAH, May 9, (AP). A former American employee of Saudi Arabian American Oil Co. has established a university scholarship fund to promote better relations between Arabs and Americans through an exchange programme for needy students, a newspaper reported here yesterday.

Oliver T. "Ollie" Devine of Stateline, Nevada, who retired 20 years ago, has established the project in his name and that of his late wife, Frances, the English-language Saudi Gazette reported.

The endowment amounts to approximately 1 million Saudi riyals (\$26,600) which Devine hopes to increase through donations. Scholarship grants will come from investment income. "We want students to have full exposure to know and respect each other's culture and customs. You can't learn this by remote control," Devine told the paper in an interview.

Secondment
Devine first arrived in Saudi Arabia in 1947 on secondment from Standard Oil of California and worked for the personnel department of Aramco. The giant company is responsible for more than 90 per cent of Saudi Arabian oil production.

Devine later became superintendent of wages and salaries and conducted management development seminars for young Saudis, many of whom rose in Aramco's ranks.

Between 1978 and 1982 he

returned to Saudi Arabia as consultant which enabled him to help many old friends.

The Gazette said that by its own account Devine is "not a multi-millionaire or any other kind of millionaire."

Dream
"The generous gift fulfils a dream the Devines shared when their first dream — to build their retirement home on a prime lot in Tihuron, Marin County, overlooking San Francisco Bay — did not come to pass," the paper wrote.

Devine's hope is that over time, many of the exchange of scholars will enter government or public service in their home countries, some perhaps gaining positions of leadership.

"Armed with knowledge, understanding and respect for one another's culture, better decisions should result, in turn creating better relationships and a better world," he reasoned in the interview.

Help

"We had lived and worked in Saudi Arabia for years, visited many Middle Eastern countries and made many friends. They have given so much to us, we hoped to return some of their many kindnesses," he added.

In 1969, the couple settled in Nevada where a spinal virus overtook Frances until her death 11 years later. Before she died, they discussed how to help the Middle East and hit on education.

Locust

Meanwhile Al Tarakmah, has denied the possibility of locust invasion of Kuwait.

He said that possible invasions coming from the Red Sea areas must necessarily pass through Saudi Arabia where sophisticated equipment was already set up in anticipation of such eventuality.

He emphasised that the Saudi officials had so far spoken of no such invasions, and that the authority was successfully able to exterminate the small swarms of locusts which managed to fly into the Kuwaiti desert last year.

He said that the reason behind the invasion of locusts in the Red Sea area was the discontinuation of locust-fighting techniques in the area.

They discussed the idea of the Aramco employees, said, the property and set up the fund, which is to be administered by the Near East Welfare Association.

Devine has remarried and said his second wife Virginia also strongly supports the project.



Samir E. Fares

IAA elects senior vice-president

THE World Council of the International Advertising Association (IAA) has elected Samir E. Fares to the post of senior vice-president and president-elect for 1990. Fares is chairman and C.E.O. of Amacom International in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. He was also re-elected vice president/area director for the Middle East and Africa.

Fares has served the International Advertising Association for the last 30 years and was instrumental in forming chapters in Lebanon in 1961, Egypt in 1976, Dubai in 1979, the Middle East council in 1985 and Pakistan in 1987. He is now working to establish a chapter for the Gulf Cooperation Council for the IAA.

Turkish art exhibition

ACTING secretary general of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Dr Sulaiman Al Askari last night met with Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Guner Oztek.

During the meeting, the Turkish side expressed desire to organise calligraphy, formative arts and handicraft exhibitions in Kuwait in November or December.

Kuwait is scheduled to host a meeting in September for the joint Kuwait-Turkish committee for cultural cooperation to review means of promoting cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Islamic society financed building of 550 mosques

THE Islamic Heritage Revival Society, has helped finance the construction of 550 mosques in several Asian and African countries, since its inception about ten years ago, a society official told Kuna yesterday.

The official, engineer Tareq Al Issa, outlined the society's achievements recorded that it also built 22 Islamic institutes and 75 educational centres for Muslims. It also financed the drilling of 300 wells in Sudan, Senegal, Bangladesh and Kenya.

The society has expanded a scheme under which 315 Islamic preachers were distributed into 22 countries and helped distribute no less than 600,000 books in several European and Asian languages.

Al Issa, meanwhile, urged support for the society which he said, was trying to effect strong bonds between Muslims all over the world.

Public auction

KUWAIT'S Court of First Instance has ruled that a ship belonging to the Marine Transport Company be sold at a public auction.

The money from the sale of the ship will go to two local banks to which the company owes over KD1.7 billion.

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Ministry plans to close health centres at midnight

THE Public Health Undersecretary, Dr Naef Al Naqib in an interview with a local newspaper stated that the ministry intended closing all health centres at 12:00 midnight. Conversely, there could be advantages in opening some health centres during weekends and official holidays. To circumvent causing any inconvenience to patients, doctors would be requested to contribute an extra couple of hours every week.

The pragmatism of the concept, is being thought of, as late night centres do not justify the extra spending compared to the number of cases attended. Late

night shifts, according to Naqib were for emergency cases only.

To provide additional and better equipped health centres to benefit patients, he commented that the ministry proposes instituting nominal fees for services.

A resident, Ahmad Al Qalaf stated that his family lost a baby due to lack of a hospital centre in proximity to his house and believed re-opening health centres closer to residential areas was essential.

However, Jad Abdullah, another resident, felt that hospitals in Kuwait are fully equipped to receive emergency cases making reopening health centres

after 12:00 pm unviable.

Hamid Marzouq Al Lahem, another resident believed that health care for residents should be top priority. Though, the Ministry of Health did vigorously promote health, closing down every health centre was not an ideal solution. As certain areas needed such services, these areas should be left open. This would alleviate the pressure that would build up on hospitals due to closure of health centres.

However, Al Naqib concluded that presently these considerations were in the proposal stage and a comprehensive study is under way.



HH the Amir yesterday received the chairman and members of the Kuwait Lawyers Association.

Hotel industry in Kuwait hit by economic slowdown

By Nawal Al Fahd

THE hotel industry in Kuwait is one of the businesses affected by Kuwait's economic slowdown.

The industry reached its peak in the early 1980s, and the Commerce and Industry Ministry agreed on 40 licences for hotels. But the boom did not last very long, and in 1988 the six first-class hotels in Kuwait could barely cover their expenses.

The deputy general administrative and financial director of the Kuwait Hotels Company, Abdul Aziz Al Wazzan, told the Seyassah newspaper that Kuwait was not a tourist country and had too many hotels. He added that many tourist projects were executed to meet tourist needs

and these were enough. He said Kuwait should use its many resources in better ways to attract more visitors.

The general manager of the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel said that stopping visas to Kuwait, though a correct security measure, had affected the economy in many ways, with, for instance, fewer foreign businessmen visiting Kuwait because it took them longer to get visas.

War

The sales manager at SAS Hotel said the Gulf area, specially Kuwait, was much better off in the early 1980s. He said the hotel industry had not expected the boom to last forever, and took steps to meet changing conditions.

The office manager at the Hilton Hotel said the Iraq-Iran war and the great media coverage it received was the cause of market stagnation. He said that people became afraid and Western businessmen in particular preferred to do business in safer areas.

The public relations director at the Sheraton Hotel, Munir Amer, said he had been working at the hotel for 12 years and had seen all the problems that could occur at any other hotel in the world. He said the Iraq-Iran war, the Al Manakh problem, the cut in oil prices and the stopping of visas to Kuwait were all considered responsible for the slump in the hotel industry in Kuwait. He said the Sheraton was not affected as much as other hotels,

197 teachers appointed

THE Assistant Undersecretary for general education at the Education Ministry, Saad Al Rifai was quoted in an interview with a local daily as stating "197 teachers were appointed to work in the ministry as of the next academic year." He added that all teachers were local appointees and would be filling vacancies which have resulted from recent resignations.

She said that though the ministry was not facing any problem on the issue of resignations, the ministry still needed 198 personnel to occupy leading supervisory posts.

The private education department, according to her, would be allocated their personnel from this group. However, she said, the relevant committee has yet to submit its recommendations.

Further, she said that the primary stage needed 3 principals, four assistant principals and 42 supervisors, while the intermediate stages need five principals to work in the private schools, four principals in the public education's schools and about 17 supervisors for girls schools and 14 supervisors for the co-ed school.

Refresher courses for communications personnel

THE director of the manpower department at the Communications Ministry, Mohammad Al Rifai said that it is planned to provide refresher courses and impart enhanced training to personnel. Among others, these courses were envisaged as forming an integral part of the administrative development process at various levels.

He said that strong emphasis was being laid on the role of manpower in the development of administrative cadre to optimise efficiency. State-of-the-art technological equipment and knowledge would be utilised for this purpose.

The ministry, he said, had

made great strides and that a special department for manpower resources had been created. This has contributed in no small measure towards upgrading performance, developing productivity and increasing incentives to urge personnel to perform at a high level of excellence.

Al Rifai stressed that the recent transfers among the ministry assistant undersecretaries was very instrumental in serving the administrative process. He further added that efficient performance was closely related to qualifications and that overall performance depended to a great extent on having well qualified personnel.

Fintas project cost over KD 50m

THE Fintas Project, built at a total cost of KD50,480,000, will include administrative and shopping centres, mosques, a fresh food market, pedestrian overpasses, carparks, a police station, passport office, carparks and a traffic department.

According to sources at Kuwait Municipality, the population of the Fintas central district is expected to reach 300,000 by the year 2005 and planning for the area will move from the eastern section to the development of the commercial section of the Fintas centre.

Construction will involve using of white pre-cast concrete for all buildings except the mosques, which will use a combination of white pre-cast concrete and fibreglass, with aluminium and bronze window casings and double-glazed window panes.

The project will be provided with a special fire-fighting system following the Kuwait Fire Department's standards, and construction will give special attention to blending the architecture with the environment.

Students' team meets Nouri on credit system

HISHAM ALAWADI, the head of student affairs at Kuwait University's National Student Union, said that a delegation from the union had met with the Education Minister and Acting Higher Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri to discuss the union's dissatisfaction with the university's credit hour system charter of 1986.

The delegation said that the charter should make some provisions for the stability of students' academic levels and should compensate students of the 1986 enrollment class.

The delegation requested that the class of 1986 be given another chance to continue their studies at the university for an additional semester.

The minister promised to present their requests to the university administration for review.

UAE students to start military training

ABU DHABI, May 9, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) faced with a possible spillover of the Iran-Iraq war, said yesterday that students would be called up for military training.

The official emirates news agency WAM said students over the age of 14 would attend a 40-day military course, intended to help to safeguard national security.

The training, to start in June, is compulsory but WAM said each recruit would be paid 1,200 dirhams (325 dollars) a month.

GCC media coordination praised

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Information Minister Sheikh Ahmed Ben Hamed has praised the coordination in media field between the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

In an interview with Al Seyassah Sheikh Ben Hamed added the GCC countries agreed on full cooperation to give prominence to the media role to develop their societies.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the UAE information official called for an immediate end to that "destructive" war, and hoped that the latest efforts by the UN will be crystallised to reach an end to this conflict.

He strongly rejected the Israeli threats against Saudi Arabia, when the latter purchased Chinese missiles and its interference in the GCC states internal affairs.

3,000 students to be admitted

THE assistant of the dean of registration, Dr. Jaafar Asiri was quoted as saying "3,000 students will be admitted during the next academic year 1988/1989" and confirmed that as per university policy the majority of students would be accredited to scientific disciplines.

Oil cables

KUWAIT'S Electricity and Water Ministry has announced that it will start connecting oil cables in different areas of the country within three months.

It added that work in the Shuwaikh area will start on May 7.

Sheikh Nasser receives lawyers' delegation

SOCIAL Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Jaber yesterday received a delegation from the Kuwait Lawyers Society.

Headed by the society's board chairman Mishari Mohammed Al Osaimi, the delegation comprised deputy board chairman Abdallah Abdul Ghafour, Secretary Nader Al Awadi, treasurer Badr Al Badr and members Abdeen Alsayegh and Fahd Abdallah Khazam.

The encounter took place on the occasion of electing the new society's board.

Activities of the society and affairs of the lawyer's profession were tackled during the meeting.

Government concerned about agricultural sector

THE head of the productive agricultural Cooperative Societies Union, Barak Nasr Al Noun, has said that the government appears to be showing an increased concern for the agricultural sector in Kuwait.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti daily, Al Noun said that the restructuring of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources was an important step in improving the country's agriculture.

He said that the agricultural development in Kuwait depends on specially trained manpower. He added that it was required that workers in agriculture be given more incentives to continue their work in this sector if it is to grow further.

Al Noun emphasised that the increased awareness was one of the factors that would help in the development of the agricultural sector and expressed hopes that with the distribution of more agricultural land among residents, the agricultural contribution to the country would expand.

Soviet official confers with King Hussein

AMMAN, May 9, (Kuna): Soviet envoy Mikhail Stinko conferred here last night with King Hussein of Jordan on Moscow's efforts to help resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, a report quoted an official Jordanian source as saying.

The Gulf war came up as well in the talks between the monarch and Stinko, the director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East department, the source added.

Earlier this evening Stinko, who is on a Middle East mission that will take him to Kuwait on Monday, discussed with the Jordanian Foreign Minister, Taher Al Masri "the latest initiative" to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to the Soviet embassy here.

The envoy, who arrived here, Saturday night, reviewed with Al Masri the topics that the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will discuss in his forthcoming visits to some Arab Middle East countries, including Jordan, a Soviet embassy official was quoted as saying.

Fahd's message

DOHA, May 9, (Kuna): Qatar's Amir Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani yesterday received a message from Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, Qatar news agency reported.

The message, which was delivered by the Saudi Ambassador to Qatar Abdel Mohsen Al-Zaid, dealt with Arab and Islamic issues in addition to the friendly relations between the two Gulf Cooperation Council members.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received the board chairman of Kuwaiti Lawyers Society, Mishari Mohammed Al Osaimi, and board members on the occasion of their recent election to the board of directors.

Iftar banquet

HH the Amir yesterday held an iftar banquet at his residence in Dasmam for the Al Kuwait Sports Club team, winner of HH's Soccer Cup.

Amiri cable

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to the Czech President on the occasion of his country's National Day.

Crown Prince cable

HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Czechoslovakia's Premier on the occasion of his country's National Day.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Mitterrand urged to pay more attention to uprising

A KUWAITI newspaper issued on appeal to President Francois Mitterrand, of France, to pay more attention to the continuing Palestinian uprising in his second presidential term.

Al Watani, in a front page editorial, said that the uprising, which entered its sixth month yesterday, must "be one of the top interests of President Mitterrand of the next French government, especially when there is half a million Arab voters participating in the elections."

If the uprising does not occupy its reasonable place in France, then "it is regrettable that a country such as France, whose name is closely linked to slogans of fraternity, freedom and equality, does not pay attention to the uprising," the newspaper emphasised.

It noted that the "giant uprising" has changed the political map of the Middle East, revived the Palestinian question and presented the Palestinian people to the world as a "conscious" people.

The political developments in the Middle East, Al Watani concluded, could play an important role in the internal politics of France just as has happened yesterday when Mitterrand won the elections 12 hours after the announcement of the release of three French hostages in Lebanon.

Mitterrand was, on Sunday, elected President for a second term, winning the votes of 54 per cent of the French people. Jacques Chirac, the Socialist Prime Minister who won 48 per cent of the votes, was due, to officially resign his post yesterday.

Sheikh Issa briefed on Palestinian uprising

MANAMA, May 9, (Kuna): Director of the PLO's political department Farouk Qaddoumi last night met here with Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Muharak Al Khalifa and Interior Minister Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa attended the meeting.

Gulf News Agency quoted Qaddoumi as saying that he informed the Amir on the latest developments on the Arab and Palestinian arena, particularly the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, and the achievements of this revolt.

He also informed Sheikh Issa on the outcome of the meeting held by the Palestinian leader-

ship in Baghdad recently, the Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation, as well as the issues which concern the Palestinian people, and their self-determination especially what is related to the international peace conference and the PLO's stance toward this issue.

Qaddoumi added that Sheikh Issa hailed the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, and reiterated Bahrain's continuous support for the Palestinian revolution until they restore their legitimate rights under the leadership of the PLO.

The Palestinian official arrived here yesterday for two-day official visit to Bahrain within a tour to a number of the Gulf states.

Omani minister invited to visit Tunisia

MUSCAT, May 9, (Kuna): The Minister of Civil Service Ahmed Bin Abdul Nahi Macki will visit Tunis next August at the invitation from his Tunisian counterpart Hussein Al Sharif, the Omani news agency reported yesterday.

The Tunisian Ambassador to Oman Mohammed Al Yasser delivered a message from Al Sharif to the Minister of Civil Service when he called on him here yesterday, the message included an invitation to visit Tunisia.

Saudi aid to Sudan

RIYADH, May 9, (Kuna): A Saudi Royal Forces plane carrying various food supply left here last night to Sudan to distribute the foodstuff among the drought stricken victims.

Saudi Press Agency said that the assistance comes in response to the Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz's recommendation to continue sending Saudi people donations to the victims of African countries.

Another plane is scheduled next week to leave to Sudan from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for the same purpose.

Judgement upheld

KUWAIT'S Court of Appeal upheld the judgement delivered by the Court of First Instance on a defendant accused of assault.

The Court of First Instance had ordered the defendant to pay KD4,000 as compensation for the loss of six teeth suffered by his victim. The Court of Appeal rejected a defence claim that the loss of teeth could not be constituted as permanent mayhem.

Distribution of relief aid

BEIRUT, May 9, (Kuna): The first stage of distributing Kuwaiti relief aid including foodstuff and school equipments will start this week in the coastal city of Sidon, south Lebanon.

About 15,000 students and their families in Sidon will benefit from the Kuwaiti consignments which will be distributed on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Kuna correspondent in the south reported.

He added that the second stage of distributing the Kuwaiti supplies will be in Khrouh province, south-east Beirut, to be followed by villages and towns in south Lebanon.

Kuwait had sent food, medical and school assistance to Lebanon earlier this year to the tune of 10 million dollars to help 1,500,000 Lebanese students and their families.

Plan to revive AOI

SHARJAH, May 8, (Kuna): Negotiations on reinstating the Cairo-based Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI) will start between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar after Eid Al Fitr holidays, according to the Sharjah-based daily Al Khaleej.

The paper said that the first step to be taken by the organisation's four member-states would be to revive \$620 million of its capital frozen in Swiss and Western banks since 1979.

Another UAE daily Al Itihad reported that Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki will visit a number of Arab states particularly GCC states after the Eid Al Fitr, which is expected in the third week of May.

The visit is meant to be a follow-up to the tour of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the Gulf earlier this year, the paper said.

Outstanding students honoured



Presenting a prize to a top student.

THE dean of students affairs at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training held a ceremony on Saturday to honour outstanding students at the various authority colleges for the academic year 87/88.

The ceremony was held at the theatre of the College of Commercial Studies for girls in Hawalli and attended by the dean of the Students and Trainees

Affairs at the Authority Hisham Al Mutae, the dean of the College of Commercial Studies for girls, Dr Hasan (bshr) and senior officials from the Authority and colleges and the parents of students.

The dean of the students and trainees delivered the key note address in which he urged students to exert themselves towards excelling their disciplines. He stressed the impor-

ance of the role of youth activities in useful and rewarding activities.

He stressed the vital role of parents in providing family guidance, supervision and channeling the capabilities of their student children towards sound goals.

The dean then distributed the cups and prizes to the honoured students.

Decision on bank service fees

THE Governor of Central Bank of Kuwait, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah yesterday said that the CBK's board of directors endorsed decision fixing maximum fees to be collected by banks for their services to the public.

He added that the decision, passed after approval of the finance minister, aims at establishing a clearcut relation between the banks and their clients as far as fees are concerned.

Sheikh Salem noted that

interests of both the banks and the public were taken into consideration. He added that the decision was taken after ensuring that the fees were just and in conformity with nature of the banking services.

Top donor

KUWAIT has maintained its position as one of the world's top foreign aid donors despite falling oil revenue, a Kuwaiti official said yesterday.

Preparing unified curricula

DR. Abdul Rahman Al Muhallan, the Director General of Kuwait's Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, met yesterday with the telecommunication and air navigation team responsible for preparing the unified curricula for the Gulf Cooperation Council technical centres.

Dr Al Muhallan praised the work of the team in carrying out the curriculum project, which is intended to contribute to technical development, among GCC member states.

Team members included: the head of Foreign Networks, Hussain Al Janna, his deputy Musaed Al Berjes and engineers Hamdi Lutfi and Fahmi Ghali from the telecommunication and air navigation centre's teaching staff.

Al Jaberiya returns to service

A LOCAL daily reported that KAC's aircraft "Al Jaberiya" which was recently hijacked returned to service last Thursday. A source at KAC denied that the plane's cabin was damaged. After a complete change of seats in the first class, maintenance work and some minor touch-up, the jet flew the London/New York sec-

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July 1988

Yugoslav diplomat holds art show

A spectrum of changing colours

By Jadranka Porter

DIPLOMATS and artists may often rub shoulders at social functions but they are people not usually thought to be cut out of the same fabric. Jovica Prodanovich, 49, the Yugoslav embassy's counsellor in Kuwait, defies that description. Prodanovich, a lawyer by training, is a successful diplomat and an accomplished artist. Later this month close to thirty of his works, mainly oils but some watercolours too, will go on show at Kuwait's Boushary Gallery. This is his third one-man exhibition, the first two having been held in

Yugoslavia, one in Belgrade and the other in his native Daruvar.

Prodanovich has managed to reconcile his career as a diplomat, which requires ability for an objective approach in fact-finding and analysis, with painting which for him is a personal expression of his inner thoughts and feelings and a subjective vision of his environment.

Dilemma

"A diplomat's life is kind of programmed" he says pointing out that painting complements his career. While at work he practices restraint, when painting he unleashes his emotions

and is free to get involved.

The current reconciliation of professional and artistic pursuits was preceded by a dilemma many years ago when Prodanovich had to decide what college to join. In the end he opted for law and specialised in international relations. There were some practical considerations in his decision but he was also deeply aware that the art school in the Yugoslav city of Zagreb, where he lived, was heavily influenced by different schools of art, the abstract in particular. Prodanovich was reluctant to compartmentalise his training. If he were to study art it would be in a considerable freedom of choice to satisfy the creative urge that has lived in him since his childhood.

Career

Painting remained his constant companion throughout his student days and later when he pursued a career as a journalist at Zagreb TV station and when he entered the diplomatic service.

One thing he is sure of — painting is not his hobby. It is much more than this. It reflects a need to give a definite form to the usually unexpressed areas of his spiritual and emotional life. Painting also defines his relationship with the environment. In Kuwait, Prodanovich drew inspiration from the fast-disappearing reminders of the traditional life.

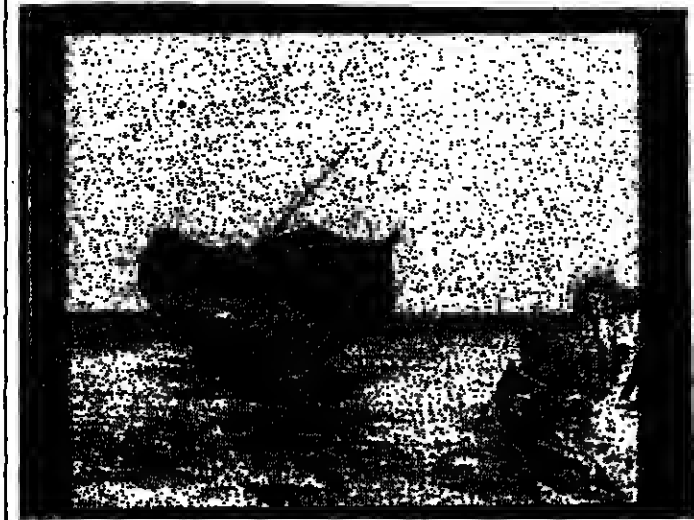


Inspired by tradition: a Kuwait scene by Prodanovich

His paintings stand witness that foreigners in Kuwait are not indifferent passers-by but are ready to register and absorb the local culture and even stamp it with their own contribution, such as his works. That aspect is particularly pleasing for Prodanovich.

His works, dominated in content by landscapes, are also a vehicle that takes him close to nature. If he had a choice he

would always paint in open air rather than in a studio. "In the studio the artist is on his own, what he paints comes from him. But when you are doing a landscape while actually having it in front of you, the spectrum of changing colours, light, shadow and mood is overwhelming," he says. "There is nothing like it in a studio." The exhibition will be held at the Boushary Gallery, Salmiya, from May 22.



Landscapes: a vehicle that takes the artist closer to nature

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Boushary Gallery

Watercolour, paintings by Yugoslav artist Jovica Prodanovich will be exhibited at the Boushary Gallery, Salmiya, from May 23, 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.40 pm.

Iwan Gallery

An exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Sa'ad Abbas is open daily from 10 am to 1 pm and 8 to 11 pm at the gallery in the Zahra complex, Salmiya.

Sultan Gallery

"The Islamic Heritage of Spain" is open daily from 10 am to 1 pm and 7 to 10 pm at the Sultan Gallery, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg, Al Soor St.

THEATRE

Sounds Great

Singers will be auditioned for a pop-rock musical "Sounds Great" 8 pm, May 14 (Sat.) at the Sunshine School, Salwa. The musical will be presented at the Salmiya Cinema on June 10. For details ring producer-director Ken Winston — 5740256/7, am or 5758870 pm.

Kinkani Drama

The Colva Dramatic Troupe will present a Kinkani drama entitled "Mujem Dusrem Ghor" on May 20, 4 pm, at the Indian Arts Circle, Funtaites. The play has been written by Rosary Fernandes. Performers include Mendes Brothers, Marcus Vaz, Xavier Gomes and Frank and Philip. For tickets contact Colva committee members.

Natyia Bharati

Natyia Bharati, a group of Indian amateur dramatists, will present a Hindi play, Undersecretary, a comedy, on May 18, 7 pm, at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium.

I Got Rhythm

A musical show featuring Reem Yusef Kelani will be presented in the Grand Ballroom, Regency Palace hotel, on June 2, Thursday. Tickets — KD 10 including dinner. Produced and directed by Glenis Muckle and Kerry Langley. All proceeds will be donated to the British charity Medical Aid for Palestinians to help Dr Pauline Cutting, OBE, and her team, to provide medical care for refugees. For details call 2627003.

Kuwait Singers

"Songs for a Summer Evening" is the title of a concert by the Singers. It will be held at 8 pm on May 31 and June 1 at the UAS, Salwa. Tickets — KD 2. For reservations ring 3940770 ext. 57; 5384873; 5740627 (answering service).

Kuwait Players

Antidote — a Kuwait Players show of quick fire adult comedy sketches ranging from the subtle to the plain crazy, will be held from May 11 to 15, 7.30 pm, at the Universal American School, Salwa. Tickets — KD 3. For reservations call 5613465; 5610925 (pm) or 5611546 (pm).

KLT

KLT, Ahmad, will present Brigadoon, a musical, on June 1, 7.30 pm, gala night. Further performances are at 8.15 pm on June 7 and 8 and at 5.30 pm on June 2, 3, 9, 10. Tickets — KD3. Children — KD2. For reservations ring 3983724.

CINEMA

British Council

Pinocchio, a timeless, unequalled film adventure for all people of all ages. An unforgettable cast of characters includes the spry Jiminy Cricket; kindly Geppetto, a terrifying whale named Monstro and, of course, the little puppet made of wood, Pinocchio. It will be shown at the British Council, Mansouriya, on May 11, 6 pm, and May 12, 10.30 am. Duration: 84 minutes.

SOCIAL

Mushaira

The Halqae Shaoor-e-Adab, a literary society, will hold a poetry evening — mushaira — on May 19, Thursday, at the home of Abdul Ghaffar Nasser. M.D. Khan will be the chief guest and Omar Khatabi will preside over.

Kuwait Caledonians "Ceilidh" will be held on May 26, Thursday, at the Holiday Inn Hotel, 7.30 pm for 8 pm. Entertainer from Scotland will be Bill Barclay. For reservations phone 5610673 or 5335082.

May Queen

The May Queen will be crowned at the Sheraton Hotel, Grand Ballroom, on May 16, City Lights and Stepping Stones in attendance. Highlight of the evening is a fashion show by Tapaty Ray. The event has been organised by the Kuwait Goans Association.

Flassik Cooking Class

The monthly Flassik cooking class will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel on Wednesday, May 25, 4 pm. For details call Rory — 2530000 F/B Office.

SPORTS

PBAK Marathon

Bowling Tournament First marathon bowling tournament will be held for three consecutive days from May 18 to 20 at 300 Club from 9 am to 6 pm. The first day will be for men; and the last day for women. Fees for men — KD 5.500; women — KD4. For details contact PBAK Sarah Macarimbang — 4843447.

Kuwait Nomads

Rugby Club Tuesday, May 10, club annual general meeting at Gazelle Club, 7.30 pm.

Mini Olympics

The Filipino Mini-Olympics will be held on May 17, 7 am, at the Keifan stadium. Games include basketball, volleyball, lawn tennis, table tennis, darts, dama and bowling. All events, except bowling, will be held at Keifan. Bowling will be held at the Silver Tower bowling lanes. Lawn tennis takes place at the Qadisiya Club, Hawalli. Spectators are requested to bring Kapilku ID cards for easy entry. For details call Bong Melencio — 4877793.

Filipino Marathon

The Filipino marathon — batakan ng buro 88 — will be held on May 17 (3 km); May 18 (5 km) and May 20 (10 km). This event is open to all Filipinos — individuals or teams. For details call Bong Melencio — Louie Alcares — 4877793.

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Al Nimiran Pharmacy
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Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Market

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Tiger Joe
Starring: David Dirbeck,
Annabelle
Al Salmiya
True Stories
Starring: Josh Goodman

Al Hamra
Rage of Honor
Drive-In
Karaoke Fi Al Shrah
(Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra

Fahsheel Open-Air
Trishul (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Rakhee

Al Fahsheel
A Little Shop of Horrors
Al Jahra
Tarzan's Secret Treasure

Al Firdous
Kanoon Hai
(Hindi)
Granada
Jaitra Yatra (Malayalam)

Salaikhhat
War Time
Al Jeeb
Dharmo Amar (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Shahed Athbasal (Arabic)

PRAYERS

Fajr 3.30 am
Zuhr 11.44
Asr 3.20 pm
Maghreb 6.30
Isha 7.56

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

1.00 Holy Quran
1.10 Tao Tao: cartoon serial
2.00 Zahra Al Saif: historical serial, starring Abdullah Ghaith, Hussein Fahmi, Yusuf Shaban, Amina Rizk, Imaan Toqi, Hala Fakher.
3.00 On Ramadan religious programme
3.35 Jarooh: daily serial, starring Zuhair Numani, Maha Saleh, Dawood Jalal.
4.45 Sanawat Al Sabar: daily Arabic serial.
5.30 Hadeeth Decen: religious talk
6.30 Carbons
6.45 After Ifar
7.00 Madinat Al Riyadh: children's serial, featuring Khalid Al Obaid, Abdul Rahman Nahhan, Mohammad Jaber, Ahmad Saleh, Huda Hussain.
8.15 A Talk Show on

Islamic Philosophy
Deerat Al Khair: On Ramadan
9.30 Ramadan Contest: News in Arabic
11.00 Musafir: Bila Hawaiyya: daily serial, starring Ghanem Al Saleh, Hayat Al Fahad.
12.00 Late Night Serial: Sabar Ya Umm Sabar
1.00 Hal Yardi Jameel: Arabic film, starring Sana Jamil, Samir Ghahim, Abdul Munim Ibrahim, Nadiya Rashad, Ruhya Khaled
2.15 News Summary
2.20 Holy Quran/Closedown

9.40 Islamic Horizon: "The Forty Hadith"
10.00 Lorne Greene's New Wilderness: a look at the blue stork.
10.30 Leg Work: "Things that go Bump in the Night". Another innocent work seeks the assistance of the pretty detective.
11.00 Twilight Zone: tonight's tale is about three teenagers; they meet a magician who promises to find them girlfriends.
12.00 Feature Film: "North Beach and Rawhide." Starring: Harry Falk, William Shatner, Tate Donovan, James Olson. Ex-can who now runs a dude ranch takes on delinquent city teens to teach them responsibility.
1.30 News Summary
1.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

KTV 2

8.00 Holy Quran
8.10 Pole positions: cartoons
8.30 Punky Brewster: more comedy with Punky and her friends. Starring Soleil Moon-Fry in the title role.
9.00 News in English

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsworld
30 The Jesuits (ex 31st Music of the Royal Courts)
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
30 Short Story
45 This Particular Place (ex 3rd Journey Round My People)
0200 World News
09 Commentary
15 Network UK
30 Sports International
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 John Peel
0400 Newsday
30 Rhythms of the Sun (ex 31st A Schubert Anthology)
45 Reflections
50 Financial News
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 New Ideas
45 Turning Over New Leaves
45 The World Today
0600 Newswatch
30 Counterpoint

Schubert Anthology)
1500 Radio Newsworld
15 A Jolly Good Show
1600 World News
09 Commentary
15 Omnibus
45 The World Today

English

Tuesday
Morning
0800 Opening
0803 Songs and Music
0805 Thoughts in Islam
0830 News
0840 Songs and Music
0845 Daily Programme
0900 Songs and Music
0930 They Sold a Million
1000 Our Press Today
1005 Songs and Music
1100 Closedown
1330 News on FM Service
Evening
2100 Opening
2102 In the Latin Mood
2130 News
2145 Point of View
2155 Songs and Music
2200 On Islam
2215 In the Groove
2245 Daily Programme
2300 Hit Special
2330 Jazz in Action
2400 Closedown

Thank you



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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

HUMILITY is the solid foundation of all the virtues —
Confucius, Chinese philosopher (551 BC-479 BC)

Mistrust mars Indo-Pak ties

By Rajendra Bajpai

NEW DELHI, (Reuters): India and Pakistan, often the worst of enemies and never the best of friends, will open talks later this month to allay mutual suspicions, but few expect dramatic results.

The home secretaries of the two countries, their ministries' top civil servants, meet in New Delhi on Indian charges that Pakistan is arming and training Sikh extremists.

The defence secretaries will meet in Islamabad for talks on the disputed strategic Siachen Glacier, where Indian and Pakistani troops have fought intermittent battles at an elevation of 6,000 metres (19,000 feet).

Pakistan has denied that it is training and arming Sikh militants fighting for an independent homeland.

An Indian Home Ministry official said New Delhi had conclusive proof of such activities and that they had forced Indian security forces to fence off part of the border.

Smuggling
The official said the Indian government had the upper hand over extremists until last December but large-scale smuggling of Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifles from Pakistan had upset the balance in favour of the guerrillas.

Humayun Khan, Pakistan's ambassador to New Delhi, told Reuters: "I have to concede that in the last four or five years India has made this problem of our alleged interference in Punjab a major issue affecting the overall relationship."

Indeed from time to time as the situation in Punjab has reached periodic crises, India has made this the stumbling block in the way of bilateral relations.

For 40 years since Pakistan was carved out of partitioned British India to create a home for Muslims, mutual suspicion and mistrust have guided the actions of both countries.

They have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir. The last in 1971 led to the dismemberment of Pakistan when its eastern wing, wedged between Indian states, became Bangladesh, home for Pakistan's Bengali

Dae-Jung seeks to change his image

By Lee Su-Wan

SEOUL, (Reuters): Kim Dae-Jung, South Korea's best-known dissident, is trying to bury his "populist firebrand" image and project himself as a political moderate following his party's high election success.

In the new, fluid political climate in Seoul, Kim is proclaiming that his Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) will no longer "oppose everything the government proposes."

The 63-year-old two-time presidential candidate, long vilified by officials as a communist sympathiser, the "red under South Korea's bed," is even reported, astonishingly, to be planning visits to police and Army units "to boost their morale."

The dramatic swing in Kim's fortunes, following a period of political eclipse after the divided opposition went down to inglorious defeat in the December presidential election, came with the shock result of the April 26 National Assembly polls.

Against all predictions, President Roh Tae-woo's party lost its majority and the PPD emerged as the largest opposition bloc in a chamber which, for the first time in modern South Korean history, was in a position to block government legislation. Suddenly all the rules were changed.

"In the opposition camp, the main development in recent days has been Kim Dae-Jung's efforts to re-cast himself as a moderate," a foreign analyst said.

"Kim has made numerous pro-business statements, emphasising his support for laissez-faire capitalism and a thriving stock exchange," he added.

Kim surprised many political observers last week by even hinting that the opposition might postpone until after the Olympic Games and on Oct 2 a series of highly sensitive assembly probes into political scandals under the rule of former President Chun Doo Hwan.

Long-standing taboos broken

Push into Lebanon signals new Israeli policy

By Nicolas B. Tauro

TEL AVIV, Israel, (AP): Israel's sweep into south Lebanon last week broke long-standing taboos against risking confrontation with Syria and attacking pro-Iranian guerrillas holding US hostages.

The two-day "Operation Law and Order" signalled a new Israeli willingness to get involved in Lebanon despite the national trauma suffered by a three-year occupation of Lebanon that cost nearly 700 lives and deeply divided Israel.

As in Israel's 1982 invasion, the incursion triggered a debate on the defence minister's failure to notify the cabinet of his plans to launch a large-scale military action near Syrian Army lines.

It also risked reprisals against foreign hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon, although comment on this issue was muted in Israel.

In a two-pronged thrust, a force of about 1,500 Israeli soldiers and allied South Lebanon

Army militiamen pushed beyond the six- to 10-mile border security zone for the first time since February 1986.

They came up empty-handed in a sweep of Muslim villages near the western slopes of Mount Hermon, limiting their action to distributing leaflets warning residents not to cooperate with Palestinian commandos.

Fought
A second column of Israeli tanks and infantry, backed up by helicopter gunships, fought a short but fierce gumbattle with Hezbollah men dug into the abandoned village of Maydoun, 12 miles (19 km) north of Israel's border. Israeli officials said 40 Hezbollah men and three Israeli soldiers were killed.

Uri Lührani, the Defence Ministry's coordinator for Lebanon policy, said the Army was prodded into action by 12 Palestinian commando raids that disrupted life in northern Israel and cost the lives of 11 Israeli soldiers since November.

He and other Israeli officials suggested that if such raids failed

to keep the border safe, Israel might have to adopt the "dreadful option" of invading Lebanon as it did in 1982.

"Whatever we are doing along the border, and this operation was just one facet of a whole mesh of activities, is all designed to one purpose: to avoid the possibility that will have to move into Lebanon in force, with divisions and stay there," Lührani said in an interview.

Confrontation
The search-and-destroy mission came within a few miles (km) of Syrian Army lines in Lebanon, raising fears of a confrontation with the Soviet-backed government in Damascus.

The Liberal daily Haaretz suggested Rabin changed targets in midcourse and attacked a Hezbollah base near Syrian lines after failing to find Palestinian commandos in villages near Mount Hermon.

There is reason to ask whether it was necessary to take such a risk by increasing the penetration range to the point of proximity to the Syrian military

positions in order to prove that the incursion was not launched in vain," Haaretz said.

Defence Ministry officials insisted the Hezbollah base at Maydoun was targeted from the onset.

"We are facing Syrian-influenced areas from which commando activity against Israel is being initiated. Therefore, the Syrians must know that something is bound to happen if this continues," Lührani said.

Rabin was also attacked for failing to notify the 25-member Israeli cabinet of his plans to launch a major operation in south Lebanon that risked confrontation with Syria.

Rejected
Abba Eban, chairman of Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, rejected Rabin's explanation that the operation was routine and did not need government approval.

Such an operation, on such a scale and with the possibility of entangling results because of the closeness to the Syrians, I don't

think it may be called routine," he said on Israel television.

Among those Israeli Radio reported to be critical of Rabin's failure to notify the cabinet was former defence minister Ariel Sharon, who was himself attacked for failing to keep the government informed about his 1982 invasion.

Rabin said actions to protect the northern border did not require advance cabinet approval, and his spokesman, Eitan Haber, noted that Rabin informed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. But Shamir was quoted by the daily Maariv newspaper as saying he was not aware it would be "on such a wide scale."

The operation also broke a previous reluctance, reportedly based on a US government request for restraint, not to attack Shiite Muslim commandos in Lebanon for fear of endangering US and other foreign hostages, including two Israeli soldiers captured by Hezbollah commandos in February 1986.

Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron,

Armed Forces Chief of Staff, was quoted in an interview with the daily Yediot Ahronot newspaper as saying Israel had been avoiding certain areas but that there had been no American "veto" on such attacks.

"There never was a general veto. There were certain places regarding which we didn't know if there were prisoners or not, and therefore we had to be careful," Shomron said.

Critics also said the pro-Iranian Hezbollah would quickly rebuild destroyed bases, and might attack Israel instead of limiting its actions to south Lebanon.

"Why Hezbollah?" Uzi Mahanaimi asked in a front-page commentary in the mass circulation Yediot Ahronot daily. "Hezbollah is not the Israeli Army's main enemy in south Lebanon and hasn't tried to penetrate into northern Israel."

Other analysts suggested it was futile to try to wipe out commando bases because they would only reappear elsewhere.



Bihar peasants turn to Naxalites

By Seema Sihra

ARWAL, India, (AP): Communist guerrillas, fighting high-caste landlords, have found fertile recruiting ground among the landless peasants of Bihar, India's poorest and most backward state.

Officials concede that the landlords, who brandish rifles and sticks as they ride motorcycles across fields where peasants toil for little or no wages, are a law unto themselves.

The guerrillas, who adhere to a Maoist ideology of violent overthrow of the oppressors, are organising the peasants into demanding wages and protesting the frequently reported rapes of women by the landlords' private armies.

Known as Naxalites after Naxalbari town where their movement was founded, the guerrillas gun down landlords who often enjoy immunity from legitimate authorities.

While newspapers and government leaders warn of "the Naxalite menace," the peasants of Bihar are increasingly turning to the guerrillas as their last hope.

Wages
"The landlords don't give us wages," said Mateshwari Devi, a farm worker. "If we fight, they rain bullets on us."

Sitting on the floor of a dark, mud hut, she said: "We neither have land nor grain. How are we to survive?"

The Naxalites "Red Army" takes on the landlords' private

armies that, according to peasant leaders and press reports, terrorise low-caste communities.

The result is a continuing cycle of killings and reprisal killings. At least 205 people have died in 898 violent incidents in Bihar since 1983, according to official figures. News reports and civilian libertarians put the toll at more than 450.

The state's 85,000-member police force has tried to stop the killings, but the problem is more complex than simple law and order.

Officials say the problem goes deeper, because it stems from the abject poverty of the low-caste masses and injustices committed by the powerful landlords who are almost always from the upper castes.

Grievances
"This is an economic issue, and the Naxalites provide an aggressive forum for airing people's grievances. When they agitate, roads get built and things happen," said R.N. Dash, Home Secretary for Bihar state.

The ancient divisions of the caste system fuel tensions between the haves and have-nots. Bihar's 80 million people have an annual per capita income of \$111 less than half the national average of \$254.

Arwal, a village of 4,500 people, is a case in point.

In April 1986 police opened fire on a meeting of about 300 peasants and labourers, killing 23 people.

The rally had been called to protest a local landlord's claim to

any piece of land that the government had granted to poor families.

An official inquiry into the killings was ordered, but the report was never made public. Officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said the inquiry found the firing was justified on grounds of "apprehension of breach of peace."

Shooting
Local activists alleged that the landlord, K.D. Singh, had arranged for the police to open fire and that Singh himself joined in the shooting.

Singh was shot to death on Feb 27. Local residents and journalists, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Naxalites killed him.

Shia Sharan, a diminutive man of about 55 whose eldest son was killed in the shooting a year ago, fully supports the Naxalites' tactics.

"I have tried everything legal. I have sent telegrams to the authorities, but no action has been taken," he said, opening a neat file of documents and newspaper clippings to substantiate his point.

"We won't leave this land. My son died for it, and the government can fire on us again if it wants," he said.

A local leftist leader known as "Doctor Sahib" said: "Naxalites only kill those who victimise the people. K.D. Singh was also involved in many other killings."

In nearby Halhetpur village, a similar story unfolds.

Residents said supporters of Awadish Singh, a landlord from the warrior Rajput caste, opened fire on Aug 27, 1987, on farm labourers who were demanding better wages. They were receiving about a kilogram (2 pounds) of grain as a day's wages, a common practice in rural India, and were seeking salaries of Rs 15 (\$1.15) a day.

At least 26 workers were injured. Police who were sent to investigate the shooting filed charges against some of the labourers, many of whom are now fugitives.

"The idea is to frame us to end our agitation," one fugitive, Umesh Prasad, said. "I sleep in different houses every night. Police don't even recognise me when I walk by them."

A police post has been set up next to Awadish Singh's house to protect him in event of a Naxalite attack.

Reforms
Awadish Singh, a hefty man, said he was scared of these killers. He claimed his sympathisers opened fire when the labourers attacked him.

Singh's workers live in mud and thatched huts and sleep on straw piled on the dirt floors. Singh lives in a two-storey, eight-room house furnished with the status symbols of rural India: large wooden beds, glass-tinted radios.

Top officials in Patna, Bihar's capital, tend to agree with the leftist that reforms are needed.

"I forecast this immediately after the coup," Bavadra told the Associated Press. "The problem is the chiefs, they've lost contact with the grass roots."

Squabbling
Bavadra said he feared squabbling among the chiefs could provoke a violent reaction from Fijians who have suffered economically since the coup.

On Friday, Bavadra warned that any new constitution that discriminates against Indians in parliament would keep Fiji out of the Commonwealth. It was expelled after the October coup.

Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, in an address to the conference of Fijian chiefs, had suggested that Fiji's readmission to the Commonwealth depended only on re-establishing parliamentary democracy.

"A non-racist constitution is the only guarantee of Fiji being accepted again by Commonwealth member states," Bavadra said.

Rahuka, 39, is a hero to many ethnic Fijians who see him as the saviour of their culture.

Mitterrand has moved from left to centre

By Jeffrey Ulbrich

PARIS, (Agencies): Socialist President Francois Mitterrand has been a prominent face on the French left since the end of World War II, but in recent years he has moved markedly to the political centre.

Mitterrand was re-elected to a second term on Sunday. But commentators say he must move fast if he is to capitalise on his personal triumph in trouncing the rightist candidate, Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

"Mitterrand will have to succeed quickly in opening up the political scene," said Jerome Jaffre, chief analyst for the Joffe opinion poll organisation.

"If he does not, then a great wave of disappointment will overtake him."

Mitterrand's goal is ambitious: to shatter the right so



Francois Mitterrand

that socialists and centrists become the natural parties of government in France.

Even before the final results of the poll were announced, Chirac's centre-right coalition, which has a four-seat majority in parliament, was crumbling under the shock of Chirac's defeat.

The coalition, led by Chirac's neo-Gaullist RPR (Rally for the Republic) party, split between those who would consider working with Mitterrand and those bent on bringing down his government.

Unlike his first term in 1981, when Mitterrand allied with the communists behind a programme of radical reforms, the President has this time campaigned on a platform of moderation and continuity, openly courting middle-of-the-road voters.

The strongest backing for Mitterrand came from former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who looks set to play a role in parliament in fostering centrist support.

"We will judge the new government according to its acts," Giscard said in a statement. "We must not decide in advance to censure it."

Mitterrand needs the support of only four members of Chirac's coalition in order to govern — provided he sticks to a moderate programme acceptable to the centrists.

Chirac and his ministers are in a weak position to control their roosts in parliament as they were obliged under French law to resign their seats when they joined the government. This positions Giscard as the right's natural leader in parliament.

Some commentators see Mitterrand's comeback as a revenge drama, plotted by the President to crush Chirac for the humiliation he inflicted on Mitterrand in the 1986 general election.

"Everything looks as if Mitterrand had arranged the socialist comeback for years," Sofres' Jaffre said.

In 1986, Chirac deprived Mitterrand of a parliamentary majority, forcing the socialist to take a back seat and name his arch-rival to head his government.

Mitterrand's first two years in office, 1981-83, involved implementation of long-held socialist ideas and were largely a failure. The radical philosophy of "rupture with capitalism" foundered on the rocks of economic reality.

After trying to spend their way to prosperity, the socialists ran up the national debt without

being able to stop runaway unemployment. The government was forced to reverse course and institute austerity.

When the rights ousted the socialists from control of the National Assembly in March 1986, Mitterrand needed to appeal to a wider electorate if he was to have any hope of reelection.

Ironically, after Mitterrand's popularity had fallen to historic lows at mid-term, it soared after the right regained control of parliament, leaving him with little real power in domestic affairs.

The French seemed to like the balance of power. Mitterrand, 71, quickly assumed the role of the wise grandfather, referred to affectionately by many as "l'oncle," a child's term for "uncle."

Mitterrand was first elected May 10, 1981, in a socialist tidal wave that ousted Giscard d'Estaing and then, a month later, the conservatives and centrists who had held power in the National Assembly for 23 years.

The founder of the modern French Socialist Party, Mitterrand has been in four presidential races. He was defeated by Charles de Gaulle in 1965 and by Giscard in 1974.

Captured
Mitterrand was born Oct 26, 1916, in Jarnac in western France. He earned degrees in law and letters in Paris. He was drafted in 1938, and during the German invasion of May 1940 was shot and captured.

He escaped from a POW camp in Germany and returned to France. After the occupation of the Vichy zone by the Germans, he created a resistance network.

His career-long feud with Gen. Charles de Gaulle began during the war when Mitterrand refused to join his resistance group with De Gaulle.

It was during his resistance days that he met Danielle Gouzou, whom he married in 1944 shortly after the liberation.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1539 — Selim and Bayazid, sons of Sultan Suleiman I of Turkey, fight for future succession at Konia in Asia Minor. The defeated Bayazid and his supporters flee to Persia, where Bayazid is slain.

1796 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte defeats Austrians at Lodi in Italy campaign.

1857 — Sepoys revolt at Meerut, starting Indian mutiny against British rule.

1871 — Treaty of Frankfurt ends Franco-Prussian war. France cedes Alsace-Lorraine to Germany.

1875 — Religious orders are abolished in Russia.

1933 — Paraguay declares war on Bolivia.

1940 — Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigns in World War II, and Winston Churchill forms government; Germany invades Holland, Luxembourg and Belgium.

1957 — Soviets appeal to United States and Britain to halt nuclear tests.

1967 — US jet planes bomb power plants in North Vietnam's port of Haiphong for first time in Vietnam war.

1971 — Former Nazi Rudolf Hess finishes 30 years imprisonment, and Soviets insist he serve full life sentence in Berlin's Spandau Prison.

1972 — South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu declares state of martial law.

1976 — Israel announces plans to establish numerous additional settlements in occupied Arab territory.

1987 — Beirut (Lebanon) International Airport reopens after 99-day shutdown.

The Kennedys, Queen Juliana, and Emperor Hirohito all have a Falabella

Big demand for midget horses

By Victoria Azurduy

BUENOS AIRES: The smallest horses in the world are approximately the size of a suitcase: 40 centimetres high, 80 centimetres long (15.6 inches by 31.2 inches) and weighing about 20 kilograms (44 pounds).

It was more than a century ago that an Italian immigrant, Julio Falabella, began to breed the horses, and today they bear his name, the "Falabella Breed."

The tiny four-legged creatures have also meanwhile

become one of the most sought-after items which Argentina has to export.

Today's midget breed are descendants of a wild breed of horses which began populating Argentina with the first arrival of the Europeans.

It was a Spaniard, Pedro de Mendoza, the founder of Buenos Aires, who brought the first 44 horses to Argentina in 1532. The horses originated from Spain's Andalusian region.

Many of the horses escaped and the run-aways, returning to the wild, procreated at an astonishing rate. By the end of

the 16th century, there were already thousands of wild horses roaming the Argentine pampas.

Three centuries later, the immigrant Falabella took it into his head to try to breed the wild domestic horses into the smallest-sized species possible.

Falabella's sons carried on his work, crossing the animals with the Shetland ponies of Europe. By 1916, they had bred horses just one metre (3 feet, 3 inches) tall. Further selective breeding continually scaled down the size of the horses in the course of the succeeding decades.

Today the Falabella breed has nothing more in common with the Shetland Ponies.

The smallest Shetland Ponies when they reach maturity normally range between 90 and 130 centimetres (35-51 inches), one Argentine breeder remarked.

"By contrast, our horses are never taller than 50 centimetres (19 inches)," he adds. The breeder noted that both the Falabella and Shetland horses share one characteristic — great resistance to illnesses and ability to cope with inclement weather.

Those seeking the mini-horses as a pet are attracted by the fact that it is no problem feeding them, since the Falabellas can get along on a bit of grazing grass and maybe a bowl of oats.

"You have to keep the lid on the volume of their feed, because they have a tendency to get fat," a Falabella family member comments. "But they only need as much room as a dog and so you can keep them very well in your garden or back yard."

Worldwide demand for the tiny animals remains enormous, say the breeders. A Falabella horse sells for about \$2,960, though stallions can cost as much as three times that much.

Among the first foreign buyers of Falabella horses were the Kennedy family in the United States, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands, and Japanese Emperor Hirohito.

Now the horses are regularly exported to the United States, Japan, and various European countries. In France, one veterinarian wrote a doctoral thesis which contended that the Falabellas were a "model breed."

In the course of time, various



Dwarfed by a normal-sized horse, Falabella-breed horses graze contentedly on a breeding farm in Argentina. Reaching a maximum of just 50 centimetres in height, the world's smallest horses are the product of a century of special breeding begun by Italian immigrant, Julio Falabella.

legends have somehow attached themselves to the tiny horses, one being that they only

mate by the light of the moon. "Not an ounce of truth to this," says the Falabella family.

"We apply an absolutely natural method in selecting the horses for breeding. The mid-

get horses are the result of more than a century of work and dedication."



Two Anatolian shepherd dogs at a Turkish state farm.

Turks seek new role for ancient shepherd dogs

By Hugh Pope

BURSA, Turkey, (Reuters): Few who pass through Turkey forget an encounter with the Anatolian shepherd dog.

The lion-like creatures, with their powerful jaws, ferocious bark and heavy iron-spiked collars appear menacing although they rarely attack people.

For thousands of years Anatolians, which weigh 40 kg (90 pounds) and can stand two metres (six feet) tall on their hind legs, have dutifully guarded sheep, shepherds and villagers from the rustlers, wolves, jackals and bears that prowl the highlands of Asia minor.

In Babylonian times, a strikingly similar breed bunted lions and wild horses and was used in warfare. The animal is depicted in 3,000-year-old Assyrian bas-reliefs in the British Museum.

Now two animal-raising centres near the western Turkish city of Bursa have begun testing the Anatolians' civilian and military talents.

"We think that in time the Anatolian may surpass both the German Shepherd and Doberman Pinscher," said a trainer working with the Turkish Army's 12-year-old breeding programme.

The Anatolian is noted for its strength, loyalty, resistance to disease and ability to work in temperatures of under 20 degrees below zero.

The Turks, who are training them for patrol and guard duties, tracking and detecting explosives, have a vital first task: to save the dogs from degeneration caused by mixed breeding in their central homeland.

"It is a growing problem, but we must preserve them. They are part of our heritage," said Bulent Kurultay, director of the agriculture ministry's Karacabey state farm.

Plunder

Black or white heads and coats ranging from white to russet are accepted. But in Karacabey's neat, 50-kennel building, chief Vet Baha Ozmen pointed to mottled hair, patches and irregular noses on some of the dogs in his care.

Landowners and village headmen take pride in their dogs but pay little attention to mating patterns and are unsentimental in giving away the puppies.

"It's a kind of plunder of the breed. Some of the dogs have begun to look like wolves," the military trainer said. But he

added that the animals had a near-stable breeding stock.

Karacabey farm officials said their biggest problem was getting the farmers to part with their dogs.

"They won't sell a good dog for any money. It's like a Turkish father allowing his daughter to get married ... if he doesn't want to he won't," Kurultay said.

Anatolian puppies can fetch more than \$600, but Karacabey usually has to acquire them by swapping them for prize rams bred on another farm.

The best Anatolians come from the central town of Kangal, where wolf carcasses hang from poles as trophies and proud owners spend winter nights discussing the feats of their dogs.

One dog from Kangal recently achieved local fame after limping into an Army camp 80 km (50 miles) from home, 10 days after it left pursuing the tracks of a wolf — which it finally killed.

Anatolians kill wolves by knocking them off balance with a running blow to the shoulder and hitting them through the throat. They are protected from wolf-bites by iron collars studded with long spikes.

Anatolians usually guard sheep in pairs — the male is more likely to go for the kill if a female is around — and can cover 20-30 kms (12-18 miles) a night.

Since the 1960s many Anatolians have gone to the United States, Europe and Australia as sheepdogs or pets, the successors to the dogs sent by Ottoman sultans as gifts to European royalty.

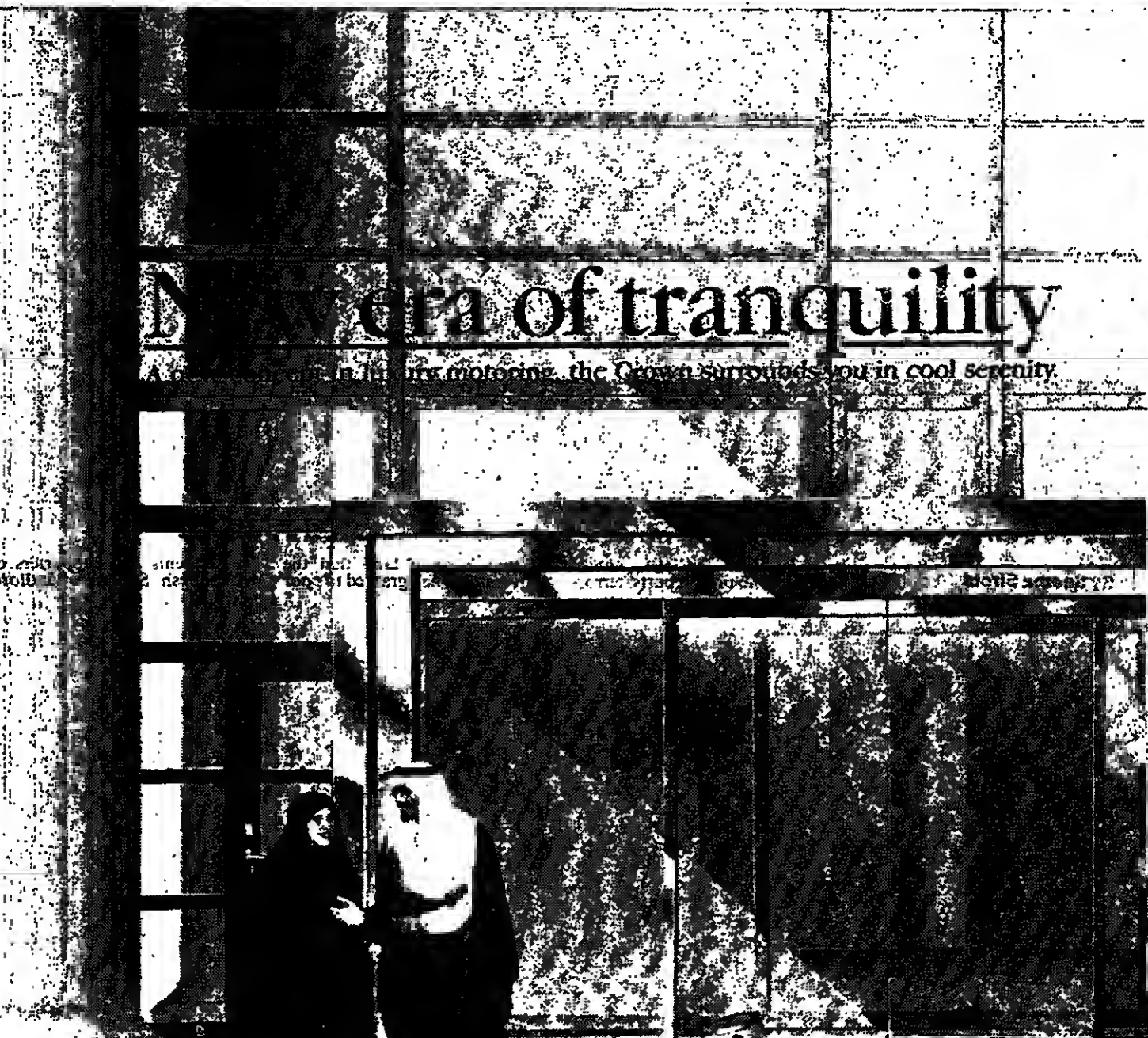
Foreign dog clubs have registered more than 1,000 Anatolians, also known as Karabash, Kangals or Turkish Shepherd dogs. In Britain, Anatolians were classed as a rare breed for the first time last year and shown at Crufts dog show.

Breeders are uncertain how well Anatolians will adapt to kennel life.

"One of the first dogs put in kennels in Ankara just slumped in a corner and refused to move. In the end he died pining for the open spaces of Sivas (a central province)," Ozmen said.

Standing in Karacabey is the tomb of Kurus, a white stallion whose bloodline founded the farm's racing stud in the 1930s and is now the best in Turkey.

"When we find the right father for the Anatolians, he will also be given such an honour," Kurultay said.



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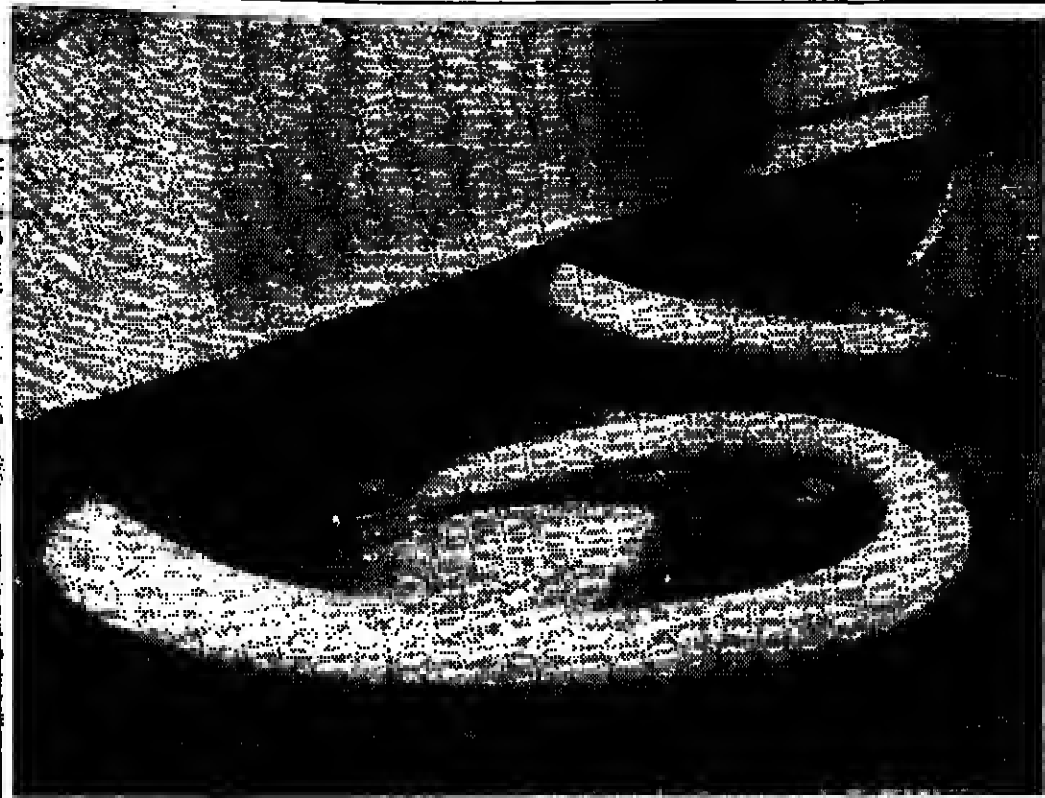
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TOYOTA



A Japanese engineer looks at a damper made of four helically-curved steel bars at a quake-proofed building in Tokyo.

Making buildings quake-proof

By Seigo Sakamoto

TOKYO (Reuters): A powerful earthquake that rocked Tokyo recently proved the value of a revolutionary design aimed at making buildings quake-proof.

Bouncing buildings resting on springs and rubber shock absorbers are the answer, say a number of Japanese companies.

A total of 12 buildings in the Tokyo area have been constructed or are under construction using the method, and engineers reported that they proved effective in slowing down and absorbing the earthquake shocks.

The earthquake, measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale, a level normally capable of inflicting widespread damage, was centered 10 km (six miles) off the Pacific coast to the east of Tokyo and damaged more than 23,000 homes, police said.

The bouncing buildings are mounted on "isolators" — cylindrical devices made of laminated rubber and hard steel plates — and dampers so that the structure is not directly tou-

ching the ground, the engineers said.

The base-isolators slow down an earthquake's side-to-side heaving, which is responsible for most damage, they said.

The dampers are usually made of spiralled steel bars.

In recent years, eight Japanese companies have built or are building such structures with special government permission to collect data.

One construction firm, the Obayashi Corporation, said that data collected on the roof of its five-storey laboratory building near Tokyo showed the isolators slowed the earthquake's destructive shaking motion by 60 to 75 per cent.

The Takenaka Komuten Company said its experimental building to the east of Tokyo showed similar results.

"The result was just as we had anticipated," said a pleased Hideo Hanakawa of the Okumura Corporation.

The method is most effective for buildings of less than 15 storeys — skyscrapers these days are built so they are flexible to absorb earthquake forces "like willow branches leaning

with the wind."

The traditional method of protecting lower structures from earthquakes involved strengthening them. But that also makes them stiffer and more prone to damage from big quakes, engineers said.

The first rubber-and-iron isolators were installed in an atomic power station at Cruas in southern France, which started operations in 1983, Hanakawa said.

He added that several buildings had been built on the principle abroad, including a law and justice centre in California, a municipal building in Wellington, New Zealand, and an atomic power station in South Africa.

Japanese builders said they were receiving a number of enquiries about base-isolated buildings, which they said were suitable for government, municipal, police, fire department, hospital, high-technology plants and museums.

Japan is particularly prone to earthquakes and the great Kanto quake, which struck Tokyo in 1923, killed at least 100,000 people.

Hi-tech toys for tomorrow

By Karl Staedele

REGENSBURG (DPA): Dolls that kiss at a computer's command, child-sized cars that drive as smoothly as Daddy's — the drawing boards of the German toy industry are covered with plans for the toys of tomorrow.

And in an industry where one big mistake can cost millions, much depends upon whether enough little girls can be found who long to cuddle a computer doll.

Making toys for tots is harder work than ever for the adults who earn their living in this demanding high-tech trade.

"For 50,000 gold marks, you could build a real steam locomotive in the twenties," says a spokesman for Nuremberg's Lehmann, maker of model trains. "It costs about as much today — a million modern marks — to design and tool a model locomotive."

Seven-figure development costs are also the average at

BIG, one of Europe's biggest toy manufacturers.

Whole ranks of scientists, designers, child psychologists and builders earn their living thinking up and producing ever-new toys for the children of the world. In spite of stiff Asian competition, the West German toy industry remains one of the world's biggest.

"About 90 per cent of our products result from customers' suggestions," reports Klaus Baumann, Lehmann's domestic sales boss. The firm has about a dozen projects in the development stage, each representing thousands of hours of work and three to four years of development.

BIG, manufacturer of children's vehicles, is subjecting its pedal cars of the future to the hard testing of kindergarten classes in the town of Fuerth. Technical inspectors are also poring over the new designs, which will be released to the market in a year or two.

Engineers at Munich's Technical University are working

with the same manufacturer on the development of the drive mechanism for a child-sized tractor.

The shelves of Germany's toyshops are already packed with about 30,000 different items. The ranks of the manufacturers, mostly small and medium-sized firms, are growing steadily, and so is the competition.

Everyone makes mistakes, and toy manufacturers are no exception. About one new item in 20 is a flop, confesses Ernst Bettag, head of BIG, whose firm lost about 100,000 marks (about \$60,000) last year on its "Handy" doll.

Lehmann estimate that they have made two or three costly mistakes in the past decade and a half.

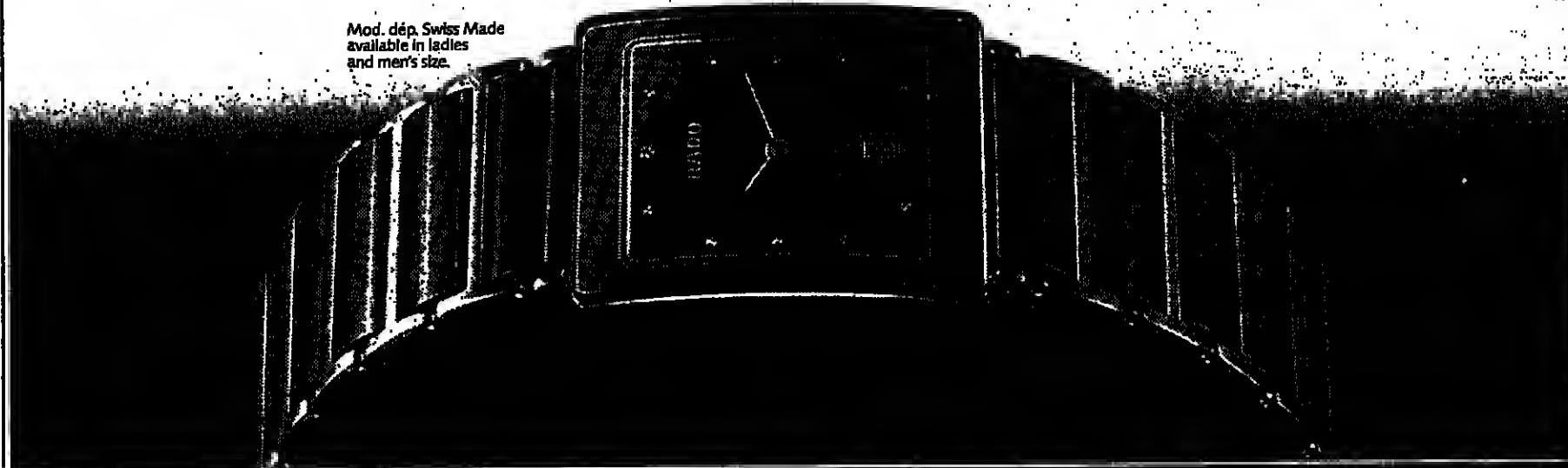
Doll makers face special problems. Designers at Zapf, one of Germany's biggest, imitate their counterparts in the Paris fashion industry, turning out about 80 new outfits and hair styles every year.



A German toymaker puts finishing touches to a prototype toy, an elephant with movable legs and head.

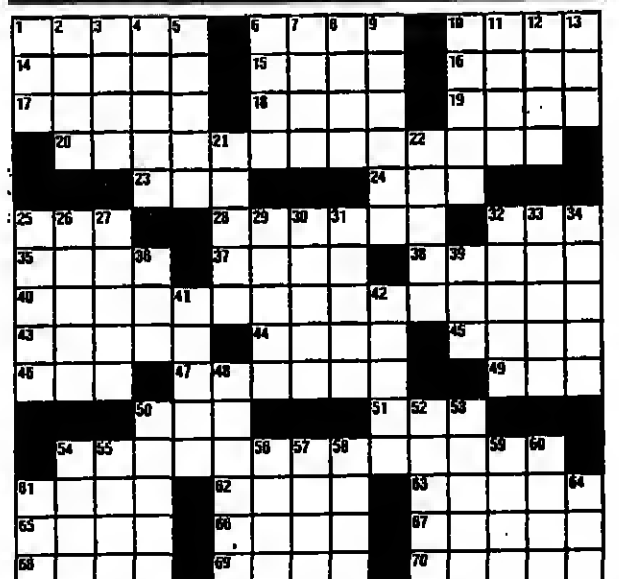
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TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Family member
 - Snoozes
 - False front?
 - Farm machine
 - Clapton or Bioré
 - Have — in one's bonnet
 - Unflappable
 - Typewriter machine, for short
 - Trust, with "on"
 - An image of pagan worship
 - O.T. book
 - Persian or Siamese
 - Embassy fig.
 - dictum (incidental remark)
 - Saratoga, for one
 - Baker's unit
 - Moon goddess
 - Bucket of song
 - Sapper's date
 - Set up a trust
 - Simba
 - Speed
 - Newspaper
 - Put in office
 - Sylphides
 - Malt product
 - Land an —
 - Team from Texas
 - Secluded place
 - Capital of the Ukraine
 - System of sorcery in the West
 - Indies
 - Estimata
 - Sicilian commune
- DOWN**
- Lab vessels
 - American chemist
 - Harold —
 - Bargain
 - Beginning
 - Name tags, for short
 - Profit, Brit. style
 - One of Jacob's wives
 - "The Tempest" role
 - Golf club
 - Dickens' function
 - Little —
 - Desertlike
 - Evergreen tree
 - Wall bracket
 - Revolutionary
 - Jean Paul
 - First family member
 - Your or my follower
 - Anthem
 - composer
 - Corvax
 - molding
 - Billiards
 - shot
 - "Tiny Alice" playwright
 - Heap
 - Loses one's hair
 - Camper's alarm clock?
 - Sanskrit's language group
 - Clairvoyant's card
 - Oslo toast
 - 33 100 equal a pound
 - Aconcagua's range
 - Ziegfeld, to

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NORTH

♠ A

♥ 53

♦ A K 8 5 4

♣ K Q 7 3 2

WEST

♠ 8 7 5 2

♥ A Q 6 2

♦ Q J 6 2

♣ 10

EAST

♠ K J 9 6

♥ 10 9 8

♦ 10 9 7 3

♣ 8 4

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 4 3

♥ K J 7 4

♦ Void

♣ A J 9 6 5

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

2 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

The decisions at a bridge table are seldom clear-cut. More often than not, there are several lines for declarer to consider, and to give himself the best chance declarer has to try to combine his chances.

This hand is a classic example. North-South have reached an excellent contract of six clubs. When South could do no more than raise to four clubs in a slam-going auction, North gave up all thoughts of a grand slam and bid what he thought he could make.

What are South's chances of making his slam? First, a winning guess in hearts, if possible. Or, if trumps are 2-1, the slam will make if either diamonds are 4-4, permitting South to discard three hearts from hand, or if the king of spades is twice guarded, letting South ruff it out and so setting up the queen of spades for a heart discard from dummy.

declarer will still have the heart guess in reserve. The first step is to test the trump position by cashing the ace. When both defenders follow, declarer can ruff a spade in dummy, ruff a diamond in hand, ruff a second spade in dummy and, when the king does not appear, ruff another diamond in hand.

Now declarer gets back to dummy by drawing the last trump, and cashes the ace-king of diamonds, discarding two hearts from hand. If the suit does not divide evenly, declarer can still fall back on hearts. But when the long diamond sets up, declarer can discard another heart from hand, concede a heart and crossruff the last two tricks to land a well-played slam.

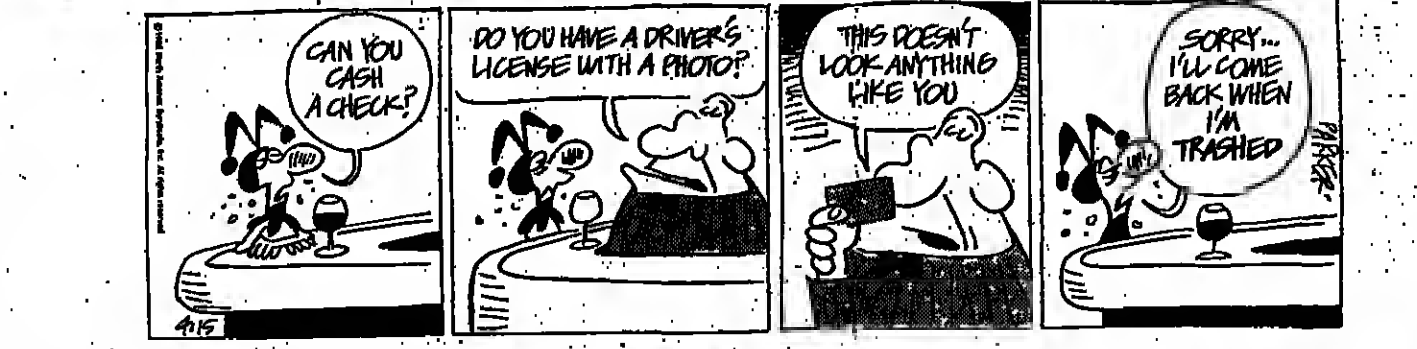


"So you've given me the best years of your life. What do you want a pension?"

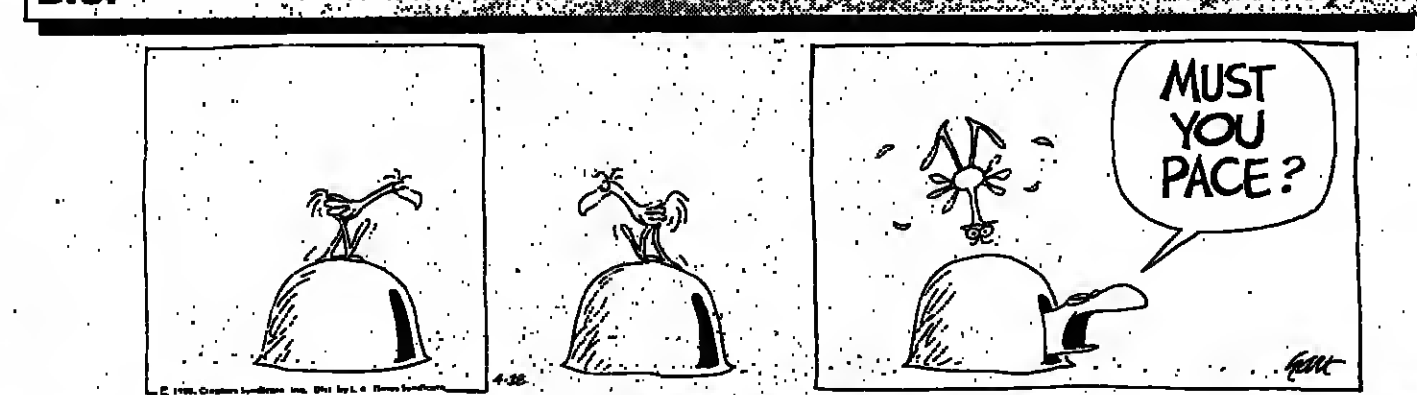
"Shall we tape to tonight's film or wait for the repeat next month?"

"What expression will you be wearing today?"

THE WIZARD OF ID



By Johnny Hart



By Johnny Hart

YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
You should not expect to have it all your own way. You will be able to deal with a problem that has been bothering you. You should not spend as if there were no tomorrow.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
Do not hesitate to make a few concessions, in return others will concede to you. Do all you can to avoid confusion. Try not to get into a violent argument.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
You will tend to be a little on the nervous side and should try to control yourself. You should not let some secondary matters outweigh what is more important. Take a little better care of your health. Be alert.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
You should make sure you do not spend too much time on a hobby. Avoid going to bed late, particularly if you have been on a long trip. Do not let others make up your mind for you. Be sincere.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
You will not have it all your own way where your personal affairs are concerned. You will however get on better with your colleagues at work. You will be able to make good progress with a new project.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
Make sure you do not neglect a cold, if you do it may turn into something worse. Do not place too much reliance on your intuitions. You should not lose sight of your objectives. Be cordial.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
Your appearance leaves a little to be desired. You will be able to make better progress than you first thought possible. It will pay you to persevere. Be more sympathetic.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
You will have something to be pleased about. Now is the right moment to tackle a financial problem that has been bothering you. Avoid taking too much for granted. Be reliable.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
You should have a little more faith in yourself. Make sure you have not left anything behind. You should make sure you do not go to extremes. Be resilient.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
Do all you can to avoid complications. You will have slightly greater freedom of movement. You should make sure you do not lose sight of your objectives nor should you set your sights too high. Be positive.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
It is far too soon to abandon hope: things are not as bad as they seem. You will tend to the rather easily and should make sure you get all the rest you need. Avoid eating too large a meal late in the evening.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
The Moon's better influence will help you to keep things in your stride. Something you consider important will make good progress.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

World Bank urged to show leadership on loans

WASHINGTON, May 9. (Reuters) The World Bank needs to show more leadership in its lending policies, a professor told a congressional hearing on Wednesday, but another witness said there was no alternative to the bank's policies.

"The World Bank is not at present a leader," University of Toronto professor Gerald Helleiner told a house banking subcommittee hearing on a proposed general capital increase for the bank.

"As far as the middle-income countries are concerned, many of whom have labour under crushing external debt servicing burdens, the World Bank has been too anxious to avoid offending the financial markets. It has as yet taken no leadership on Third World debt production," Helleiner said.

Active

He said the bank should be as active as achieving debt reduction for middle-income countries through some sort of international debt discount and conversion facility as it is in raising loans for further development financing.

Referring to the World Bank's soft-loan facility, the International Development Association, as the "soul" of the bank, Helleiner said: "The 'soul' has at present been relegated to a relative back seat without the problems of the poorest countries having been adequately addressed. The capital increase will not help sub-Saharan

policies in Africa might be slow, there were no better policies available.

"There are no viable alternatives or counterfactuals, at least to the policies being pursued by the World Bank. African postcolonial experience has shown the main ones that were proposed," Callaghan said.

"The current strategy may not be realistic to many and slow to have results, but there is no necessary anything better at hand. Modest results with a few more full-fledged successes may be the best we can do for now, however hard that may be to accept, politically or otherwise," he said.

10pc increase in lending foreseen

A PROPOSED capital increase for the World Bank will permit the institution to raise its lending to developing countries by 10 per cent a year over the next five years, according to Bank President Barber Conable.

In a speech to the World Affairs Council of Northern California in San Francisco recently, Conable said annual lending commitments could rise from just over \$14 billion last year to more than \$20 billion annually by the early 1990s.

Increase

The capital increase of \$75 billion — 3 per cent, or about \$2.2 billion, will be paid in which the bank's directors have agreed to seek from all 151 member nations of the World Bank, he stated, will provide the legal basis for expanding outstanding loans, now approaching the limit of the bank's subscribed capital and reserves.

This lending will, in turn, support reform, growth and the fight against poverty in developing countries, many of whose economies have stagnated in this decade.

The bank's current authorised capital is \$96 billion.

Growth

Although growth in Third World nations has suffered from the fall of commodity prices and the rise of protectionism, debt service payments and dwindling new commercial lending have meant that "developing nations are transferring far more money back to the industrial world than they receive in new financing," Conable said.

"The reversal (in the flow of resources) amounts to a crisis for development, one that puts a duty on the World Bank to be even more vigorous as an honest broker between rich and poor, even more energetic as a leader in stimulating leading for investment."

Conable also stressed the bank's role in counselling developing nations on ways of adjusting economic policies towards efficiency and "more favourable business environments."

Project finance will remain the key to improved lending

Gulf banks wait for loan upturn

AFTER two years of reduced lending in the Gulf, local banks in the region are now looking towards improved opportunities in 1988. These will come from expanded government borrowing programmes and some new project finance. The local banks will also be better able than before to take advantage of available opportunities following moves by international banks to cut their exposure in the region and reduce credit lines, according to MEED.

Nevertheless, the picture in the region will be mixed. Kuwait will need another year of consolidation before lending picks up, analysts say, but Bahrain is set for an increase in project finance in late 1988 or in 1989. Opportunities for trade finance remain muted except in the UAE where trade has remained buoyant.

The most visible new lending is

in central bank treasury issues. In Kuwait, the central bank began issuing treasury bonds and bills in November 1987 and by the end of February KD908 million (\$3,326 million) had been raised. A further KD300 million-400 million (\$1,100 million-1,450 million) will be issued by the end of the financial year in June 1988.

Small

But the effect on the local banks' balance sheets has been small as the issues have been spread thinly over a wide range of the country's financial institutions.

In contrast, a more limited public debt programme in Bahrain could have a greater impact as it will be taken up only by the five local commercial banks. Assets of the five banks with the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) — central bank authority) increased by 7 per cent

in the first nine months of 1987 to reach BD 47.95 million (\$127.2 million).

This was mostly short-term lending, paving the way for more formal public debt instruments which are expected at the end of the year, one local banker says.

Liabilities

In the UAE, central bank liabilities with the local banks rose by 11 per cent during 1987 amid persistent reports the bank is planning to introduce treasury bonds along the same lines as Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia appears to have shelved plans to issue public debt bonds but plans remain to use government agencies to raise funds to help to finance the government deficit.

Project finance will remain the key to improved lending in the region. Again, the local banks will benefit not just from the

physical withdrawal of the international banks from the region but also from their unwillingness to lend any money to the region long term.

Bahrain offers the best project finance opportunities, with expansion at Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) and Bahrain National Gas Company (Bangas). Both are seen as excellent risks since they are profitable operations. Bankers hope these projects will be implemented at the end of 1988 but they may have to wait until 1989.

Project

In the UAE, project lending hopes are pinned on the development of the Jebel Ali free zone, while in Kuwait banks will have to look beyond their domestic market to deploy funds.

Lending for trade finance activities in Kuwait will also remain flat. The country's re-

export market has been killed by the Iran-Iraq war and 1987 imports have continued the downwards slide which began in 1982. Total imports in 1987 stood at KD1,476 million (\$5,400 million), down 14 per cent on the previous year and down 58 per cent since 1982.

Bahrain's imports in the nine months to September 1987 were 11 per cent down on the same period in 1986, which was down on 1985. Saudi Arabia followed the trend with import finance by commercial banks in 1987 down 5.6 per cent on 1986.

The only bright spot was the UAE, where the trade figures for Abu Dhabi and Dubai remained buoyant, largely through an increase in re-exports which have expanded as exporters to the region have begun to avoid sending cargo ships into the northern Gulf.

Scope for speculative newbuilding orders limited

Cautious optimism seen in world shipping industry

A MORE promising picture of the market than for several years has been painted by the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) in its annual report, recently published. While urging caution to avoid repetition of past mistakes the report describes the past year as having seen "a distinct and long-awaited improvement."

Sir Brian Shaw warns in his review against government support for speculative newbuilding: "The main threat to a slow but orderly return to some sort of market balance is governments, who must be dissuaded from offering cheap credit and other inducements to sustain a world shipbuilding capacity which, though constantly reducing, still greatly exceeds demand."

"He said in market terms, the last year has seen a distinct and long-awaited improvement. The different sectors have not fared equally well, but overall there is an air of cautious optimism in the industry. The dry bulk market in particular has witnessed significant increases in rates and second-hand ship values."

In February 1987 the GCBS Tramp Trip Charter Index stood at only 95, a abysmally low against a 1976 base of 100. The February 1988 figure of 204 is hardly spectacular, but nevertheless better than anything since mid-1981, and the signs continue to be promising. Panamax size tonnage has been achieving especially good rates.

Sluggish

The tanker market has not been so buoyant, principally due to the somewhat sluggish demand for oil. However, laid up tanker tonnage has continued to fall steadily, dropping from 15.1 million deadweight tons at the end of 1986 to 10.5 million deadweight tons at the end of 1987.

In the liner trades matters look less promising. There is already heavy over-tonnaging on most of the major trade routes and the slowdown in the economy of the United States is bound to have an impact on the liner business.

"Notwithstanding these problems, however, the general picture is undoubtedly more promising than for several years

and the concern now is to avoid a repetition of the mistakes of the past. Although shipbuilding prices remain low, the scope for speculative newbuilding orders is limited, both especially because banks are most reluctant to lend."

The main threat to a slow but orderly return to some sort of market balance is now governments, who must be dissuaded from offering cheap credit and other inducements to sustain a world shipbuilding capacity which, though constantly reducing, still greatly exceeds demand. The shipping industry must produce a united front in opposing measures which can only have an adverse effect on its long term well-being.

The structure of the shipping industry has changed beyond all recognition since the mid-70s, one of the more recent manifestations being the changing trends in the registration. The growth of certain open registers has more than matched the speed of decline of some of the traditional ones. The industry is growing

pace.

One particularly public reason for transferring flags during the past year has been the continuing conflict in the Gulf, where the number of attacks on merchant ships has sadly risen to new heights.

The presence of the US and other Navies has done much to heighten the level of public awareness and has clearly introduced a welcome degree of protection for those vessels entitled to it, but attacks on other innocent merchant ships show no signs of ending.

Everyone involved in shipping must share the sense of frustration at the apparent inability of the international community to bring about peace and the restoration of normal trading conditions in areas of such international economic importance.

Loss

As subsequent sections of this report reveal, much of the discussion on the regulatory front, including the past year's loss of the UK passenger ferry "Herald of Free Enterprise" off the coast of Belgium in

March 1987, and debate seems likely to continue for some time to come. Yet, terrible as that incident was, it pales against the loss of a reported 3,000 or more passengers following a collision between the Philippine inter-island ferry "Dona Paz" and a small tanker.

The "Dona Paz" was of course in internal waters and therefore unlikely to be subject to the sort of international scrutiny which the loss of a vessel on an international voyage attracts. But that should not lessen the impact of the disaster.

Reminder

Whatever the cause of the tragedy, it is a stark reminder of the potential dangers of maritime transport and of the importance of promoting ship safety at all levels in the industry. One of the objects of ICS, as confirmed in its new Constitution, is to "promote the safe and efficient operation of ships and adherence to internationally agreed standards, procedures and practices."

It is an objective which ICS pursues with vigour.

Western bankers and economists watch for impact of Polish unrest

LONDON, May 9. (Reuters) Western bankers and economists are watching Poland's wave of labour unrest with some concern, but say its impact so far is localised and unlikely to have a negative effect on Warsaw's credit relations with the West.

However, if the factory strikes over the past 11 days were to spread, causing more serious production disruptions, Poland's existing difficulties in repaying its \$39.5 billion foreign debt would be aggravated, some analysts say.

"Poland has been in crisis since 1980 as far as the banks are concerned," said one London-based banker, adding that the current labour discontent had only high-lighted problems of recent years.

Effect

"There's always concern. What is happening now has had a localised effect on some sectors of the economy but I can't yet see the workers bringing the economy to a halt," she said.

Poland's debt problems are largely the result of liberal spending policies in the 1970s. Since then, with industry falling badly out of date and new credits drying up, hard currency export output has not met debt servicing

needs.

The current strike wave, triggered by steep price rises introduced under the communist government's economic reform programme, is the worst to sweep Poland since the Solidarity free trade union was suppressed under martial law in 1981.

Stoppage

On Thursday, police moved to end stoppages at a major steel plant outside Krakow, southern Poland, and the Lenin Shipyard in the Baltic port of Gdansk, Solidarity's birthplace.

Economist Jack Rostowski of Kingston Polytechnic in South London, an expert in Polish affairs, predicted further strikes would follow, forcing concessions from the authorities that would only worsen the already stagnant economy.

"The authorities are going to tend to give in to the economic demands of the strikers, thus fuelling the rate of inflation and also fuelling further strikes," he said.

Both price and wage rises have already overshoot 1988 targets and inflation looks likely to increase at a rate of at least 30 per cent this year, well above plan, a Warsaw-based Western econ-

omic expert said.

"Is this the nail in the coffin of reform?" he said, but added: "The (the authorities) can't afford to back down."

He said Poland's parliament would meet next week to discuss a draft law which aims to give the government as yet undefined "special powers" to defend its reforms, which have the backing of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Diplomatic sources in Paris, meanwhile, said talks were likely to begin soon "to revise the position" between Poland and Western creditor nations represented at the informal Paris Club, to which Poland owes about two-thirds of its debt.

Choice

Poland has long sought more favourable debt servicing terms, including lower interest rates and longer repayment periods, and the effect of prolonged labour unrest on its already stagnant economy could now draw concessions, analysts said.

"Let's face it, they (creditor governments and commercial banks) haven't got much choice," said one London banker.

Sugar producer group wants better EEC trade rights

PORT LOUIS, Mauritius, May 9. (Reuters) Third World sugar producers today will discuss ways of improving unique trade benefits they receive from the European Economic Community (EEC) because of their historic ties with Britain.

The 17-nation group of mainly Commonwealth countries, dubbed the Commonwealth Sugar Club, will meet to prepare its bargaining strategy ahead of talks with the EEC later this week.

The club wants higher prices and a bigger share of the EEC market under a deal that already guarantees higher payments than those in the free market.

Mauritius Agriculture Minister Murtudas Dullea, the club's current head, says the 12-nation EEC must raise prices for the coming year after a three-year freeze.

Offer

"We would not accept any offer from the EEC that implies a price freeze," he told reporters at the weekend.

The EEC is committed to buying fixed amounts from each group member under an agreement which makes the Community responsible for price and trade guarantees Commonwealth sugar producers once had with Britain.

"What this means is that autonomous monetary policy on the national level will be over," Poehl said. "The national currencies will disappear. There will be no more D-marks, francs or whatever. We don't believe in having parallel currencies."

Support

Ultimately, he said, it is to be a decision for Europe's governments and parliaments, not its central banks. "The question is whether the time is right to take the great leap forward," Poehl said. "It would be the absolute worst thing if these projects were to be launched and then fail."

Hans Tietmeyer, a state secretary in the West German Finance Ministry, extended the government's support for the Bundesbank's priorities. "There is a high degree of agreement between Frankfurt and Bonn," Tietmeyer said. "Now the federal government has to find out where the other governments stand on this."

with Britain.

The accord, agreed when Britain joined the EEC in 1973, runs parallel with the Lome aid and trade convention, through which the Community regulates assistance to the 66-nation African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group.

Today's meeting coincides with talks by ACP and EEC delegates to complete an agenda for an annual joint ministerial meeting on the Lome pact, scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Demands

The sugar talks are complicated by applications from Zambia and Papua-New Guinea to join the group. Uganda also wants its quota back, saying it can now resume exports.

The club indicated acceptance of the two applicants last Thursday if the EEC raises its 1.3-million-tonne cane sugar limit under the guaranteed quota and price scheme.

The club's demands also include compensation for some export costs and the dampening effect on income its members receive because of what it calls restrictive policies by the EEC to curb expansion of sugar beet output by European producers.

South Africa strikes oil

GABORONE, May 9. (Xinhua) South Africa is reported to have drilled its first oil well of commercial value off the coast of Mossel Bay.

According to a report from that country today, initial tests show that the well has a daily output of between 6,000 and 7,000 barrels a day.

The well is some 100 km away from a group of gas wells designated to support the fuel-from-gas project now under construction at Mossel Bay.

Oil industry sources said the oil pool there contains high quality crude and condensates and the gas deposits around are also substantial.

Combined with the existing Sasol oil-from coal technology and the Mossas oil-from-gas project, the discovery, if extracted in significant quantities, is expected to make South Africa independent of overseas supplies.

World Business Summary

Experts promote greater Japanese role in Latin debt

CARACAS, Venezuela, May 9. (AP) Policy advisers from the US, Europe and Latin America have called for greater support from Japan in easing Latin America's debt problem in exchange for more power in the World Bank. The experts concluded at a three-day seminar on Latin America that Latin America will never pay back its \$400 billion foreign debt unless some outside relief is provided. They suggested on Wednesday that a multi-lateral agency formed by the governments of major creditor nations could help out Latin debtors by allowing them to exchange up to half of the total debt for long term, low interest rate bonds guaranteed by the agency. Access to the bonds would require adopting economic adjustment programmes similar to current World Bank guidelines, they said. "The idea is to create a new World Bank affiliate which would perform the role of guarantee authority, backed by guarantees of major creditor nations," said Richard Gardner, professor of law and international organisation at Columbia University, in the concluding session. Japan might be asked to provide up to half of the agency's guarantee authority in exchange for a greater voting role in the World Bank, he said.

The seminar, attended by 53 politicians, businessmen and academics, was organised by Aspen Institute Italia and the Latin American Economic System (Sela). No representatives of major creditor banks, the United States or Japanese governments took part. The experts' idea combines a suggestion made by American Express Corp. in New York to form a debt-buying agency with a debt-bond swap scheme launched by Mexico last year. Unlike the Mexican bonds, however, interest earned on the new bonds would be guaranteed, and debt could be traded for bonds at full face value.

The suggestion comes after IMF director Michel Camdessus, who also attended the seminar, said he saw "no readiness" by governments of major creditors to take part in any debt-relief scheme.

New diamond mine begins production in Australia

CANBERRA, May 9. (Xinhua) Australia's second diamond mine has begun full-scale production in the Kimberley range of north-western Australia, the latest issue of the news letter of Australian Overseas Information Service reported. The Bow River mine will produce up to 700,000 carats a year including 20 per cent gem quality, 70 per cent industrial and cheap gem and 10 per cent boart. The deposit of the diamond mine had proven and probable reserves of 13 million tonnes, giving it a life of at least eight years. The mine is 20 kilometres from the Argyle diamond mine, the world's biggest diamond producer with an annual output of about 30 million carats, one third of the total world output. About 30.3 million carats of diamonds were produced in Australia last year. Bow River mine is a joint venture between western Australian companies Gen Exploration and Minerals Limited and a subsidiary of the freeport group of the United States, Clayton Dodd, a gem executive, said the mine's processing plant was in full production after commissioning in February.

Plan to set up joint venture aluminium smelter in Qatar

DOHA, May 9. (Opecna) The establishment of a joint venture aluminium smelter by the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was the subject of a meeting here at the weekend. Representatives from 17 Japanese, American, Indian, Australian and European companies attended the meeting. Feasibility studies of the \$1-billion scheme were conducted by the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC). Earlier, Ahmed Al Manai, chairman of the Qatar National Committee for the project, said that Qatar's north gasfield was the main factor behind the decision to set up the smelter which would operate on gas.

The proposed capacity of the smelter during the first phase would be about 180,000 tons a year, and could be doubled in the second phase, he added. The current aluminium production capacity in Gulf Arab states stands at 320,000 tons a year. It is expected to reach 400,000 tons after the implementation of current expansion plans. According to GOIC director general Abdullah Al Mojl, the organisation is planning to increase the GCC aluminium production capacity to 1.50 million tons in the 1990s. He said Saudi Arabia was planning to set up an aluminium smelter with a capacity of 200,000 tons a year.

Sterling set to decline: study

LONDON, May 9. (Xinhua) A recent upward movement in the value of Britain's pound sterling will be reversed before the end of the year, two leading groups of economists predicted at the weekend. Cambridge Econometrics, a forecasting group associated with Cambridge Nobel prize winning economist, Prof. Richard Stone, said sterling's recent appreciation would be temporary. It predicted that Britain's current account deficit would rise to £11 billion (about \$20 billion) or 2.4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) by the end of the decade.

When international investors finally take flight, the Cambridge group said, "the government dilemma will be whether to let sterling fall and allow the rate of inflation to accelerate to about seven per cent per annum, or to raise interest rates and restrict credit and so risk a financial crisis that will damage growth and employment. It said the government is deliberately using a high exchange rate to curb inflationary pressures in the economy."

Cambridge econometrics also predicted that the British economy would grow by 3.1 per cent this year and 1.6 per cent in 1989. It forecast an average growth rate of 2.2 per cent a year between 1990 and 2000 compared with 2.8 per cent a year from 1985 to 1990. Unemployment is expected to rise to 2.8 million by 1991 before falling gradually.

Soviets to get loan from Bonn

BONN, May 9. (Xinhua) West German banks will offer a loan of 3.5 billion marks (\$2.1 billion) to the Soviet Union for modernising its factories, according to DPA today.

Last Saturday, the Deutsche Bank and Soviet Bank for Foreign Economic Activities reached an agreement in Duesseldorf, under which a consortium of private West German banks will be formed to engage in raising the money, said DPA. Representatives of some 200 medium-sized Federal German businesses held "exploratory talks" last week with a Soviet delegation led by Alexei Antouov, vice-chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, on possibilities of cooperation in large-scale projects in western Siberia and the Kola Peninsula. Also discussed was the possibility of federal periods and facilities of food processing machinery to the Soviets.

Seminar on foreign investment in Jordan

AMMAN, May 9. (Xinhua) Jordanian Crown Prince Al Hassan received here yesterday a group of Jordanian officials and businessmen who will take part in a seminar on foreign investment in Jordan. The seminar will be held in the US by the end of this month as a channel for communications between the Jordanian public and private sectors on the one hand and the US private sector on the other hand. Prince Al Hassan told them of his recent visit to Japan during which a seminar on investment was held in Tokyo to acquaint Japanese investors with Jordan's capabilities of receiving foreign investment, the Jordanian news agency (Petra) reported. Jordanian officials, businessmen and merchants have held meetings in the past two weeks to study ways of attracting foreign investment in Jordan, discuss the measures to be taken to carry out investment projects and attract more private investments from domestic and foreign businessmen.

International Bond Highlights

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local inter-bank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	6 1/8	6 9/16
3 months	6	6 7/16
6 months	5 7/8	6 1/4

Abstract

[illegible]

Tokyo Stock Market Report

"ON MAY 2 WE CAME CLOSE TO 27,700, WHICH MANY WERE SAYING WAS THE NEXT CHART POINT," SAID A FUND MANAGER AT THE BANK OF TOKYO. "WE HAVE THE AUCTION, THE (APRIL U.S.) PRODUCER PRICE INDEX ON MAY 13, THEN THE TRADE FIGURES. UNTIL THESE EVENTS HAVE PASSED, NO ONE REALLY WANTS TO MOVE."

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS WHICH HAVE SWOOPED IN TO BUY STOCKS WHEN PRICES HAVE EASED ARE KEEPING RELATIVELY LOW PROFILES NOW.

UNIDENTIFIED TRUSTS HAVE BEEN NET SELLERS OF JAPANESE EQUITIES FOR THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 22 TO APRIL 23, ACCORDING TO STOCK EXCHANGE DATA.

AMMAN

AMMAN		JORDAN	
		JOR LEASING CORP.	0.75 0.75
		JOR LIN BRICK	0.21 0.21
		JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50 0.50
		JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.48 2.48
	OPHE CLSG	JOR PAPER CARDBOGR	3.00 3.02
		JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	2.22 2.22
		JOR PIPES MANUFACT	1.14 1.14
		JOR PRESS/PUBLISW.	2.05 2.00
		JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.00 4.00
		JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	0.57 0.50
		JOR SECURIT. CORP.	0.75 0.70
		JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.65 2.60
		JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	1.11 1.05
		JOR WORSTED MIL	4.60 4.60
		JOR. KUWAIT AGR	1.00 1.00
		JOR. PETROLIUM REF	7.10 7.01
		JOR. FRENCH MINS.	5.20 5.30
		JOR. IRV. F.H. CORP.	1.89 1.91
		JORDAN GULF REAL	0.30 0.30
		JORDAN DAIRY	0.98 0.99
		JORDAN GULF BANK	1.15 1.15
		JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94 0.96
		JORDAN INSURANCE	13.85 13.99
		JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1.63 1.69
		JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.47 1.45
		JORDAN TANNING	1.95 1.95
		JORDAN TEXTILES/POULTY	0.77 0.76
		NACH/EGG/RENT/MAH	0.74 0.76
		NAS INDUSTRIES	0.69 0.73
		NIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.60 0.40
		NIDDEL EAST HOTEL	60.00 60.00
		NIDDEL'S RESEARCH	0.50 0.50
		NIDDEL INVEST CO	1.80 1.80
		NAT/CABLE/AT&T/WF	0.97 0.97
		NATIONAL AHLIA INS.	1.29 1.25
		NATIONAL AMPLIFY	0.45 0.40
		NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.71 0.72
		NATIONAL STEEL	2.83 2.80
		ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25 0.28
		PETRA BANK	2.00 1.95
		PETRA JOR. INS.	0.50 0.50
		PHILADELPHIA INS.	0.89 0.91
		RAPIA INDUSTRIAL	0.80 0.80
		REAL ESTATE INV.	0.39 0.39
		SHIPPING SVCS	0.79 0.77
		ST. JOHN'S WEAVING	1.73 1.74
		THE HOUSING BANK	1.70 1.70
		UNITED INSURANCE	1.00 1.00
		UNIVERSAL CHEN. IND	1.17 1.23
		UNIVERSAL INS.	1.49 1.46
		WARMOL INDUSTRIES	0.85 0.81
		YARMOUK INDUSTRIES	1.06 1.07
ALA-ADOSH COMPANY	1.18 1.16		
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.80 1.79		
ARAB BANK	114.5 114.0		
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	3.90 3.90		
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.34 1.35		
ARAB INSURANCE	1.10 1.05		
ARAB INT. INV/TRAD.	0.98 0.98		
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.94 0.90		
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.53 0.58		
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.30 2.10		
ARAB PAPER COM/TRD	0.33 0.30		
ARAB PHARMA/MAHF.	1.98 1.97		
ARAB PHARMA/CHEN	0.76 0.75		
ARAB POTASH CO.	---		
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65 1.65		
BANK OF JORDAN	16.00 16.05		
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00 0.95		
CALRO AMMAN BANK	30.00 30.00		
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	0.40 0.39		
DAR ALDANA DV/INV.	1.42 1.42		
DARDO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.41 0.41		
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.51 0.54		
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.10 3.95		
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39 2.63		
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.25 1.26		
GENERAL WINNING.	1.22 1.30		
NIDDEL MINERALS	0.79 0.79		
NIDDEL LAMP IND.	1.20 1.21		
IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.62 0.60		
INDST. DEVLPT BHK	1.40 1.40		
INDSTRI./COM/AGR.	1.31 1.31		
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75 0.75		
INTERH.COM/INV	0.19 0.20		
JABJO ELECTRICITY	0.96 0.96		
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64 0.64		
ITERMED/PETRI/CH	1.25 1.23		
J.TOUR-SR COMPLEX	0.75 0.75		
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26 1.29		
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	13.60 13.60		
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.04 1.06		
JOR EAGLE	1.61 2.05		
JOR EAGLE	1.66		
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.46		
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.17 1.10		
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	0.90 0.95		
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.50 2.50		
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	1.57 1.54		
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20 1.20		

STOCK/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR				COMMODITY SECTOR			
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	LC-A	LC-B	LC-C	LC-D
AC-A	8.10	8.20	8.20	72.00	.45	.44	
AMS	3.65	3.70	3.75	LC-B	.46		.38
FER-A	2.38			PK-A	.37		
GLO	34.00	34.50	34.00	PK-B	.39	.40	
PILOT	185.00	186.00	184.00	OIL SECTOR			
KPSI-A	1	1.60		AP-A	.016	.017	.017
SPC-A	143.00	144.00	142.00	AP-B	.016	.018	.018
SPC-B	185.00	186.00	183.00	LRC-A	.0024	.0026	
				LRC-B	.0026	.0028	.0026
NINING SECTOR				QW-A	.041	.042	.043
APK-A	.029	.03	.03	QW-B	.041	.042	.043
AT-A	.03	.031		OV-A	.031	.032	.032
	.20.25	.20.50		OV-B	.031	.032	.032

Market Stock Market Report				
OFFICIAL INFORMATION				
STOCK	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
COMW.IND.	835,830	13,258,760	821.96	3.09 DH
NINING	17,544,700	4,414,950	4,908.82	17.32 DH
OIL	123,900,000	2,326,600	5.727	0.170 DH

STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	BC-A	72.50	77.00	75.00
NSC-B	143.00	144.00	143.00	BC-B	75.00	85.00	
NSC-C	184.00	185.00	183.00	LC-A	.44	.45	.45
NS-TIME	29.00	29.50		LC-B	.46	.47	.47
PLOT	165.00	186.00	183.00	ZIP	.01	.011	
MANSCOR	3.70	3.75	3.75	OIL	SECTOR		
AC-A	8.10	8.30		STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN
GLA	34.00	34.50	34.00	BP-A	.017	.018	.017
FER-A	2.40	2.46		BP-B	.017	.018	.017
FER-B	2.46	2.48	2.48	LRC-A	.0022	.0026	
MINING				LRC-B	.0026	.0028	
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	OPW-A	.041	.042	.043
MPK-A	.03	.031	.03	OPW-B	.042	.043	.044
MPK-B	.03	.032	.031	OV-A	.031	.032	.032
AT-A	20.50	20.75	21.00	OV-B	.031	.032	.032
AT-B	22.00	22.50	22.50	TA	.023	.024	.023

NAME	LAST	PR	CL	SLHNESS	272	272	LION CORP	158	158
				SULA			N UTD MFG	66	69
ALEXANDRO	285	285	N	L N	119	119	M'SHITA	510	510
ALLUKONOTA	150	150	N	T AI PAW	51	51	M'SHITA	60	60
ANAL	81	81	N	ARINAW	91	93	MAGNUM	190	196
ANAL HLDGS	163	163	N	AW PAR	285	285	KALEX IND	380	380
ANACOL	125	126	N	HEKZA	88.5	88.5	MARCOPOL	117	117
ASA TOS	150	151	N	HTL HNTL	37	37.5	MCB HLDGS	68.5	68.5
C & C B C	218	217	N	HTL M'SIA	560	560	MENANG	46	47.5
CALB	446	446	N	HTL MEGAR	306	306	METAL BOX	400	400
COLD STOR	376	380	N	HTL PROPS	92.5	93	METRO	570	565
DATAP1	42	42	N	HTL RYAL	112	114	MILPOND	26	24
DE	490	490	N	HTL	161	164	MILPOND	38	38
DUMPLINDO	93	94	N	HW HONG	88.5	88.5	MURATAICO		
DUYCHABAY	446	446	N	IMATEX	20.5	20.5	N ST	314	314
ESSO ROD	382	382	N	INTRACO	218	221	NATL LION	745	745
FEU YAN S.	193	193	N	ISETAN	480	478	KOT LTD	143	141
EVERPEACE			N	J CEMENT	54.5	55	QUE	396	392
A C B	60	60	N	J ENGRO	210	212	PALMCO	46.5	45.5
E ASSET	68.5	68.5	N	JC ENT	96	96	ROTH IND	196	190
E SHIP	204	207	N	K G HLDGS	118				
FEH ORD	810	815	N	K KELLAS	320		S PRESS F	760	765
FEED CABLE	50	50	N	K L IND	32		S SHIP	230	233
FEED FLOUR	760	760	N	KAMUNTING	100		SATERAS	48	48
FENT KENT	52	52	N	KE SANG	120		SEAL INC	89	89
FENT TON	250	250	N	KENTUCKY	230	228	SEAVIEW	170	177
FENT CORP	66	67	N	KEPPEL	215	217	SHELL ORD	540	545
FENT GENTING	426	426	N	KG FLOUR	220	220	SIA	1140	1140
FENT GOLD COIN	196	196	N	KIAN JOO	238	238	SIN LIM	61	61.5
FENT GOODHOOD	1050	1050	N	KINGS HTL	134	134	SIN MARINE	122	121
FENT GOODHAW CEN	1010	1010	N	KUMP EHAS	90	90	SPR LTD	100	100

HSBCOR STOCKS CLOSE MARGINALLY LOWER
SINGAPORE, MAY 9, REUTERS - SHARE PRICES CLOSED MARGINALLY
LOWER OVER A BROAD FRONT ON LACK OF INTEREST AND BOITS OF
OFFER-TAKING, AFTER SEVEN DAYS OF GAINS, BROKERS SAID.
THEY SAID TRADING WAS LETHARGIC AND ONE-DIRECTIONLESS WITH
SUSTAINED FALLS IN WALL STREET AND A 0.81 PCT DROP IN TOKYO
STOCK MARKET DAMPENING SENTIMENT.
INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS WERE GENERALLY CAUTIOUS, UNWILLING
TO TAKE UP NEW POSITIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF FRESH FACTORS AND
LACK OF UNCERTAINTY OVER WALL STREET'S PERFORMANCE. SMALL INVESTORS
DOMINATED THE MARKET WITH BUYING CENTERED MAINLY ON MALAYSIAN
REGULATIVE STOCKS AND CHEAPER-PRICED COUNTERS.

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRAD
-NATIONAL BANK	0.860	---	---	---	---	---
-GULF BANK	0.345	0.345	0.345	0.345	10000	---
-COMMERCIAL BK	0.236	0.238	0.238	0.238	200000	---
-ANLI BANK	0.285	---	---	---	---	---
-B.K.M.E	0.300	---	---	---	---	---
-K.R.E.B.	0.365	---	---	---	---	---
-BURGAN BANK	0.238	---	---	---	---	---
-K.F.HOUSE	0.405	0.405	0.405	0.405	40000	---
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
-KMT INV. CO.	0.174	---	---	---	---	---
-K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	---	---	---	---	---
-I.T.I.C.	0.156	0.154	0.156	0.154	220000	---
-COM.FACILITIES	0.445	0.450	0.450	0.450	38357	---
-ALHIAH INV.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
-I.F.A.	0.104	---	---	---	---	---
-INV. PEARL KUT	0.104	---	---	---	---	---
INSURANCE SECTOR						
-KMT INSURANCE	0.690	---	---	---	---	---
-GULF INSURANCE	0.370	---	---	---	---	---
-ANLIA INS. CO.	0.520	---	---	---	---	---
-MARBA INS. CO.	0.420	---	---	---	---	---
REAL EST SECTOR						
-KMT R.EST. CO.	0.240	---	---	---	---	---
-URI R.EST. CO.	0.116	---	---	---	---	---
-KMT R.EST. CO.	0.224	---	---	---	---	---
-BALHIA E.	0.075	---	---	---	---	---
-KUT PROJECTS	0.086	---	---	---	---	---
-KMT R.E.I.COM	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
-NAT IND. CO.	0.510	---	---	---	---	---
-KMT M.P. IND.	0.280	---	---	---	---	---
-KUT CEMENT CO.	0.238	---	---	---	---	---
-REF. IND. CO.	0.390	---	---	---	---	---
-K.A.N.T.CO.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
-GULF CABLE	1.000	---	---	---	---	---
-K.PH.IND. CO.	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	20000	---
-COMT.MARINE	0.350	---	---	---	---	---

FOLLOWING are international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

US dollar	27317	27466
Sig	50670	51303
D.M	16210	16433
S. fr	19440	19774
F. fr	04767	04848
It. lira	0002176	0002206
Jap. yen	002178	002212
Bh. dinar	72400	72919
UAE dir	07432	07488
S. riyal	07378	07333
Q. riyal	07494	07555
O. riyal	70910	71388

Exchange Service Murgab	
Tel: 24340558, 2447131	
8.30 to 12 noon; 7.30 to 9.30 pm	
Indian Rupees	20.67
Pakistan Rupees	15.83
Sri Lanka Rupees	9.87
Philippine Peso	13.12
US dollars	274.6
Swearing Pounds	513.8
Dhows Money Market Fund	Bid USD 13.5
	Offer USD 13.5
The Islamic Fund	Bid USD 6.0
	Offer USD 6.5
Golden Investors	ND 500
	USD 5.75

SEOUL, South Korea, May 9 (AP)—Exports by South Korea's three main auto makers of four-wheel motor vehicles dropped in April to 43,298 units, down 18.1 per cent from 52,935 units in the same month last year, the three companies reported today.

However, their exports between January and April rose 41.1 per cent from the same period last year to 193,232 units on account of increased shipments in the first quarter, officials said.

The setback in the April shipments mostly of cars, was attributed to a labour strike at Daewoo Motor Co., which was the only local automaker to go on strike over wage disputes in April when its plants were closed down for about 20 days.

The joint venture between the Daewoo Group and General Motors Corp. of the United States resumed its production on May 2 after the settlement of wage disputes with the labour union.

Hyundai Motor Co. topped the April list with 36,848 units. That was down from a year ago, but Hyundai officials declined to give the reason for the month's setback.

Kia Motors Corp. was second in April with 6,440 units, up from 3,240 a year ago.

Daewoo exported only 11 units in April, compared with 6,749 units in the same month last year.

For January-April, Hyundai also topped the list with 147,131 units, up 19.2 per cent from a year ago, followed by KIA with 25,750 units, up 331 per cent, and Daewoo with 20,351, up 177 per cent.

STOCK	LAST	PR	CL	DE BUEIR N	195,00	195,00
BAER HDGS	11300	11900		DE BUEIR P	200,00	201,00
BALOTISE PS	1750	1825		NOCHIE BABY	10100	10150
BBC I A	2005	2030		NOCHIE I	79000	79000
BK LEU I	3000	3025		RUECKVER I	12200	12250
BK LEU N	2875	2900		RUECKVER N	6000	6075
BK LEU PS	450	455		RUECKVER P	1750	1760
CFV		0	1140	RY TR BK	1060	1080
CIB GEIG I	2860	2830		S INKSGS I	2890	2910
CIB GEIG N	1400	1400		S INKSGS N	550	545
CIB GEIG P	1820	1825		S INKSGS P	106,50	106,00
CKW		0	1300	S INKVRN I	317	317
CRED SUI I	2195	2190		S INKVRN N	270,00	270,00
CRED SUI N	436	433		S INKVRN P	271,00	273,00
EG LAUFEN	1860	1870		SANDOZ I	11250	11250
ELEKTROMAT	2950	3000		SANDOZ N	1750	1760
EMS CHEM I	3400	3475		SANDOZ PS	4760	4780
EMS CHEM P		0		SANVOZ I	6000	5025
GLORUS I	7400	7400		SULZER PS	406	416
GLORUS N	6700	6700		SVB	1556	1580
GLORUS PS	1230	1250		SWISSAIR	1035	1055
JACOBS S I	6950	7175		SWISSAIR N	940	965
JACOBS S N	1425	1425		W THUR I	4950	5020
JACOBS S P	610	635		W THUR PS	2480	2500
JELM I	2570	2360		W THUR PS	660	640
JELM PS	335	340		ZURICH I	5275	5350
LANDIS N	1090	1100		ZURICH N	2550	2600
LANDIS PS	92,00	92,00				

SHORT-DATED Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates firmed yesterday in active trading as banks took positions ahead of Muslim holidays next week and Wednesday, 1900-2000, during the

Dealers said rates slipped back slightly towards the end of the business day when the Central Bank bought treasury bills on the open market.

Overnight business shot up to 8-1/2 per cent from four per cent on Sunday while tomorrow-oest traded at six per cent before easing to eight five per cent. Spoil-next dealt: 7-1/2 per cent, roughly Sunday levels.

One-week was quoted at 7-1/2, 6-1/2 per cent after dealing at seven per cent.

Quiet
The fixed periods were quiet except in the one-month, which

By early afternoon, the one-month was put at 6-5/8, 3/8 per cent, two-month at 6-3/8, 1/8 per cent.

One-month rose 1/2 point to 7-5/8, 1/2 then eased to 7-7/16, 1/4 per cent. Three-months rose 3/8,

exchange rate was a shade softer at 0.27400/10 to the dollar from 0.27386/96 which had prevailed since late February. Continued

Meanwhile Saudi rival inter-

bank deposits surged across the 3.7503/06.

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Sterling moves up

French shares rise, dollar gains

LONDON, May 9. (Reuters): French shares rose today in brisk trading despite a big victory in the presidential election by the socialist incumbent, Francois Mitterrand.

An early two per cent gain in the bourse indicator surprised many dealers who had predicted weaker share values following Mitterrand's win with nearly 54 per cent of the vote.

But a Mitterrand pledge to halt a programme of selling off state firms raised expectations of a forthcoming shortage of stock which boosted prices at the start of business.

A lot of people last week wanted to wait for cheap prices today, dealers said. Many who had gone short had to buy quickly when the bourse opened higher.

Dealers and analysts said investors appeared confident that a new centre-left government likely to emerge this week will keep the economy on a liberal track.

Gained
The franc held steady in early trading. The mark opened at 339.62/88 francs per 100, down from Friday's late range of 340.02/53 in Paris.

The dollar rose slightly against the franc to 5.7200/25 francs from Friday's late 5.7140/70, but this was due mainly to anticipation of higher US interest rates.

The dollar also gained slightly against the mark, trading around 1.6825 marks after ending last

week in New York at 1.6788.

The pound sterling was the star performer in currency markets. It opened at 3.1481 marks, nearly two pence above Friday's close, after a weekend report by David Morrison, chief international economist of brokerage Goldman Sachs, that it was significantly undervalued against the West German currency.

Sterling also rose above 1.87 dollars.

The gold price was fixed for the morning in London at \$443.60 an ounce, up from 442.80 on Friday afternoon.

Earlier, Tokyo shares ended weaker for the third session in a row. Brokers said Tokyo investors were worried by Wall Street's falls last week and were awaiting the results of an auction of US government securities starting on Tuesday and the release of fresh US trade data on May 17.

"Until we see these results, investors will hold back," said chief fund manager Kaoru Shimura of Sumitomo Life Insurance Co. "It should be like this all week."

The key Tokyo stock index sank 223.47 points, or 0.81 per cent, to 27,264.30.

Elsewhere in Asia, Australian shares fell. The main stock index lost 12.1 points to 1,410.8, with industrial stocks bearing the brunt of the selling.

"Buyers just seemed more tentative today," one broker said.

"The market was really struggling and volumes were awfully light."

In Hong Kong, share prices rose slightly.

Other dollar rates at mid-morning, compared with late Friday: — 1.6815 West German marks, up from 1.6805

— 1.4000 Swiss francs, down from 1.4015

— 5.7155 French francs, down from 5.7230

— 1.8870 Dutch guilders, up from 1.8860

— 1.25240 Italian lire, down from 1.254.00

— 1.2365 Canadian dollars, down from 1.2375

In London, share prices were little changed at midday today despite a small amount of buying interest on the first day of a new two-week trading account period on London's Stock Exchange.

Dealers said investors were cautious of the pound's further rise in currency markets, which could hurt British exports and corporate profits.

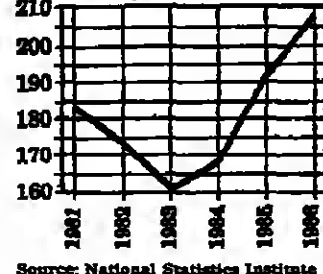
The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index was up 0.6 points, or 0.03 per cent, at 1,801.7, at about 12:45 pm (11:45 GMT).

Volume was a light 212.4 million shares compared with 352.4 million shares at the same time on Friday.

Sterling's move higher today was keeping the market cautious and subdued, traders said. The pound was gaining against the

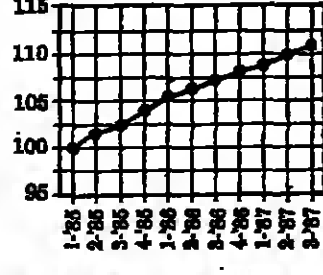
France's Economic Turnaround

Business Creation Booms
(Number of new businesses created in France, in thousands)



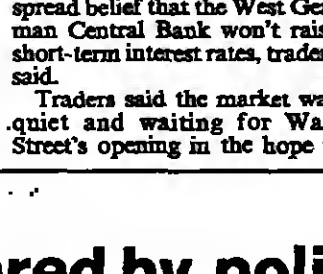
Source: National Statistics Institute

In Pace With Labor Costs
(Increase in hourly labor cost, by quarter)



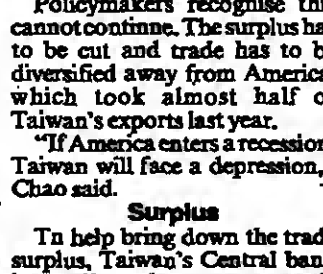
Source: French National Statistics Institute and Cie. de Saint Gobain.

Productivity Rises
(Increase in hourly productivity, by quarter)



Source: French National Statistics Institute and Cie. de Saint Gobain.

But Working Time Lags
(Weekly hours worked by full-time employees in 1988)



Source: EC

Deutsche mark on the widespread belief that the West German Central Bank won't raise short-term interest rates, traders said.

Traders said the market was quiet and waiting for Wall Street's opening in the hope it

will give London shares some direction.

The stock exchange divides trading into two- and three-week trading periods for accounting purposes. Trades must be completed within 10 days of a period ending.

Miga tries to foster investment flows to developing countries

THE Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency represents an important and timely response to global economic needs. Developing nations need larger inflows of foreign investment to secure their economic progress but are receiving less volumes than in earlier years.

Foreign investors need a greater measure of security and protection against non-commercial risks in the face of growing economic and political uncertainties.

Problems
Miga is meant to meet these different needs in a manner which maintains a careful balance between the interests concerned.

The debt-servicing problems of many developing countries are protracted and their long-term solution depends on the stimulation of growth and restoration of creditworthiness. To restore growth, more investment is needed.

Role
But the capital to finance such additional investment is not readily available either from domestic savings, a significant portion of which is being used to service debt obligations, or from external sources which have actually shrunk. Voluntary commercial bank lending has come to a virtual halt, and official aid flows are stagnating. And the volume of foreign direct investment has substantially declined.

Foreign direct investment could have much greater role to play in the transfer of resources

than it has had in the past. It has many advantages compared to commercial bank lending.

Not only does it provide non-debt creating financing, but also an integrated package of managerial skills, technical knowledge and marketing connections. If directed toward sound projects and operated under appropriate safeguards, it constitutes an ideal instrument for serving not only the interests of individual investors but also those of the economies of their home and host countries.

Objective
Miga is meant to be an important international policy instrument to encourage, protect, and promote investment flows among nations. Its objective is to encourage the flow of financial resources among its members for productive purposes, especially the flow of investments to developing member countries.

To serve this objective, Miga is authorized to issue guarantees against non-commercial risks in host countries; provide a broad range of promotional services, including technical assistance and policy advice; and take any other incidental action necessary or desirable to achieve its overall objective.

Announcing the effectiveness of the Miga convention, Baker Conable said: "Miga will work with governments to foster a stronger climate for private investment flows to developing nations. It will work with direct investors to assist them to insure against non-commercial risks."

"Miga will complement the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank and many bilateral agencies, in strengthening efforts to foster investment flows to developing nations."

The scope of Miga's coverage will be broad. It will focus on equity interests, including equity-type loans, and will also extend its coverage to other types of investment cooperation, such as management and service contracts, licensing and franchise agreements, turnkey contracts and arrangements involving the transfer of technology and know-how.

It may eventually cover medium- and long-term loans which are related to a specific investment otherwise covered by the agency's guarantee, provided they are not export credits eligible for coverage by an official agency.

Investors
To qualify for coverage, investors must be nationals of a Miga member country and juridical persons must be incorporated and have their principal place of business in a member country, or have the majority of their capital owned by nationals of a member country or countries.

These entities need not be privately owned, but must operate on commercial bases. Nationals of a host country can be covered if they bring funds from abroad for their domestic investments. This innovative feature is meant to assist developing countries in their efforts to reverse capital flight.

Riyadh seeks joint ventures with 4 oil firms

Saudis to cut Aramco-US legal ties

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 9. (AP): Saudi Arabia is drafting a new charter for Aramco, cutting its legal ties to the United States but seeking joint ventures with the four US oil companies that formerly owned the oil giant, an oil newsletter reported today.

The Middle East Economic Survey said the company will probably be called Saudi National Oil Co.-Aramco.

Aramco is the largest single oil-producing company in the non-communist world. The restructured company will be "the vehicle for the kingdom's drive to establish a substantial presence in the downstream oil industry," it said.

The new Aramco will be freed of all remaining legal entanglements with the original, Delaware-registered Aramco, Seymour said, without saying what those ties were.

Production
The objective is to have an integrated national oil company controlled, managed and operated by Saudis," he said.

Aramco was founded as the Arabian-American Oil Co. in 1933 by the Standard Oil Co. of California (Chevron), joined later by Exxon, Texaco and

He mentioned press reports of a deal under which Saudi Arabia would acquire 50 per cent of Texaco's main refining and marketing assets.

The effort to establish joint ventures in refining and marketing in consumer countries is to counter price and demand instability by "providing secure outlets for Saudi crude, secure supplies for the non-Saudi partners and good profits for both parties," Seymour wrote.

"The presence of a foreign partner to provide local know-how in the market concerned is regarded as an absolute prerequisite for the Saudi newcomer," he said.

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Aramco was founded as the Arabian-American Oil Co. in 1933 by the Standard Oil Co. of California (Chevron), joined later by Exxon, Texaco and

Manbil.
For years it controlled the production and sale of Saudi crude, paying the Saudi government royalties.

In 1973 Saudi Arabia bought a 25 per cent share in Aramco and a year later raised this stake to 60 per cent. In 1980 it bought full control.

As recently as 1986, Aramco still had nearly 4,000 American employees, including many top executives.

This year Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer was appointed chairman and another Saudi, Ali Naumi, president since 1984, was named chief executive.

The new Aramco produces around 5 million barrels of Saudi oil a day. It refines 450,000 barrels a day at Ras Tanura on Saudi Arabia's Gulf coast.

The company markets crude through its offices at Dhahran and an international affiliate with offices in New York, Houston and Tokyo.

Seymour said the charter for the restructured Aramco was being discussed by a ministerial committee set up by King Fahd. He said there was a fixed time period for implementation of the restructuring.

Iraq building new oil pipeline

NICOSIA, Cyprus, May 9. (AP): Iraq is building a new pipeline that will allow it to pump its oil through either Turkey or Saudi Arabia, boosting its ability to maintain exports vital to its war effort against Iran, the Middle East Economic Survey reported today.

The respected weekly oil industry newsletter, published in Nicosia, said the 400-mile (640-kilometre), 42-inch (106-centimetre) pipeline will run parallel to an existing north-south pipeline running the length of the country.

Project
The pipeline project will secure Iraq's ability to pump its oil exports safely out of the Gulf war zone.

That will be a major strategic boost for Iraq. If other Gulf states ban their exports through new pipelines, as is likely, it would change the economic map of the region.

It would also remove the threat to the industrialised world if Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz, the only way in and out of the Gulf.

The new pipeline will hook into a network linking Iraqi oilfields with outlets across Saudi Arabia in the south and Turkey in the North, the weekly noted.

Exports
That will allow the Iraqis to switch all their exports through Saudi Arabia if Iranian forces and their Kurdish guerrilla allies operating in northeast Iraq threaten the northern pipelines into Turkey.

The Iraqis already have three pipelines linking their southern oilfields with Saudi Arabia's Red Sea terminal of Yanbu and their northern oilfields with the Turkish port of Ceyhan on the Mediterranean.

These carry an estimated 2.5 million barrels of oil a day. Another 200,000 barrels a day

are trucked across Jordan and Turkey.

The new pipeline, with a capacity of 900,000 barrels a day, was expected to be completed by 1990, the survey said.

That, with a planned upgrading of the Saudi Arabian link to 1.6 million barrels a day by the end of 1989, would boost Iraq's export capacity to around 4 million barrels a day by the end of the decade.

Extensive
The Iraqi pipeline programme is one of the most extensive ever undertaken and, when completed, would be one of the most flexible in the world, oil industry sources reported.

The Iraqis began building their pipeline network several years ago after the war cut them off from their main export terminal in the northern Gulf and Syria closed a pipeline to the Mediterranean across its territory.

Major industrialised countries to discuss monetary policies

OTTAWA, May 9. (UPI): The summit next month of the seven major industrialised countries is expected to focus on fiscal and monetary policies needed to push the global economy through the next several years, a Canadian official said yesterday.

Satisfied with the pace of current economic growth among industrialised countries, the summit partners meeting in Toronto from June 19 to 21 will spend much of their time discussing structural policies and more liberalised trade arrangements.

A senior external affairs official told reporters during the first of several background briefings on the summit that current economic growth has proved stronger than most economists predicted.

Even the force of the Oct 19 stock market crash could not undermine that strength, the official said.

However, the next several years are much more uncertain unless governments find ways to resolve enormous trade deficits or curtail exports.

The Canadian official said the turnaround in the US trade deficit would be less than anticipated, while the combined exports of the newly industrialised Asian countries of Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong in 1989 will be greater than Japan's current external sales.

The summit agenda will also include a major discussion of the multilateral trade negotiations being carried out under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—the agricultural subsidy war between the United States and Europe.

There will also be separate discussions on the role of the newly industrialised countries in Asia and the plight of African nations.

Indonesia to use Bonn loans to develop power plant

JAKARTA, May 9. (Opecna): Indonesia will use West German loans to finance the development of a steam-powered electricity plant in Ombilin, South Sumatra, according to visiting West German Minister for Development Cooperation Hans Klein.

He said this year his country's technical and economic assistance to Indonesia would total about \$200 million, a 10 per cent increase over last year.

West Germany's 1988 budget for economic cooperation with developing countries will be increased by about one per cent, he added.

He noted that the Indonesian government was paying its foreign debt without rescheduling, which encouraged foreign business to invest in the country.

Real trade deficit continues to drop, says Yeutter

WASHINGTON, May 9: The "real merchandise trade deficit," which adjusts trade data for price changes, has dropped off sharply in the last 18 months, US Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter says.

"On a real basis, the trade deficit is at its lowest level since the third quarter of 1985," Yeutter said in a statement released last week. It is down 23.2 per cent over the past year and a half, he said.

Though the "trade" deficit in current dollar terms jumped sharply in February and the deficit for the year is expected to remain large, "the quarterly, constant-dollar trend, the most important indicator of where we are going, is clearly headed in the right direction," Yeutter said.

"This improvement in the real trade deficit is having a positive effect on the US economy," he said. "Exports are booming. Over the past year and a half, real US exports have grown 27.2 per cent, creating jobs for American workers."

The data cited by Yeutter is based on unpublished figures in the Commerce department's National Income and Products Accounts, which will be made available later in the department's publication Survey of Current Business.

Volumes
According to these constant-dollar figures for merchandise trade, which measures trade volumes, the trade deficit peaked in the third quarter of 1986 and has declined every quarter since then.

Measured in third quarter 1986 dollars, the trade deficit, in millions of dollars, was: 3rd quarter 1986 — 149.7; 3rd quarter 1987 — 122.0; 4th quarter 1987 — 119.5; 1st quarter 1988 — 115.0.

On an annualised basis, the deficit fell 7.9 per cent in the first quarter of 1988 from fourth quarter 1987 levels.

Over the past 18 months real US exports have climbed 27.2 per cent, while real imports have risen 7.1 per cent.

The Commerce Department figures show that exports, measured this way, grew strongly in almost every sector. Since the first quarter of 1987.

Non-oil exports

BAGHDAD, May 9. (Opecna): Opec member Iraq earned about \$76 million in non-oil exports during the first quarter of this year, it was reported here yesterday.

An official at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals said the exports included sulphur, phosphate and cement.

Productivity at state industrial establishments was 105 per cent higher than planned, an increase of 44 per cent over the corresponding quarter last year.

Under the 1988 trade plan, the country is hoping to increase non-oil exports by 75 per cent as part of a drive to reduce dependence on oil revenues.

The plan gives special attention to the private sector to enable it to increase its share of non-oil exports by 22 per cent this year.

Tough times ahead for economy

Taiwan planners hampered by political change

TAIPEI, May 9. (Reuters): Taiwan's policymakers say an increasingly democratic and individualistic society is hampering them in taking action to cope with tough economic times ahead.

In a series of interviews, ministers and officials said the government needed to take forceful action to help ensure Taiwan's continued economic success, but they expressed doubts about whether it could do so.

"Right now, our government is so weak," Economic Planning Minister Chao Yao-Tung said. "Until martial law was lifted last July, Taiwan had been ruled with an iron hand by the late President Chiang Kai-shek and before that by his father, Chiang Kai-shek."

Liberal
Since then, however, Taiwan has become increasingly liberal as it opens itself up further to the outside world. Earlier this month, striking train drivers paralysed the railways for the first time since 1949.

"This is a period of fast political change," said minister without portfolio Li Kuo-Ting. "I hope this fast political change

will settle down and things will become more reasonable."

Nanc of the economic policymakers interviewed said they wanted the clock turned back to the stranglehold rule of the past. In fact, some would even like to see the government to move faster in liberalising Taiwan's society and its economy.

But they did feel a need for the government to take a stronger stance in cope with the economic problems ahead.

Aggressive
"The government should be more aggressive, should put all the problems on the table and let everyone discuss them," said Chao, nicknamed "old iron head" because of his often stubborn insistence on the need for sometimes unpopular policies.

He complained that the increasingly militant attitude of workers and other people had led to a 30 per cent drop in foreign investment in Taiwan in the first quarter.

On the face of it, Taiwan's economy is performing well: In 1987 it grew 11 per cent, thanks to a record \$19 billion trade sur-

plus, most of it with the United States.

Policymakers recognise this cannot continue. The surplus has to be cut and trade has to be diversified away from America, which took almost half of Taiwan's exports last year.

"If America enters a recession, Taiwan will face a depression," Chao said.

Surplus
In helping bring down the trade surplus, Taiwan's Central bank has allowed the country's currency to appreciate 40 per cent against the US dollar since early 1986.

This has made the island's labour-intensive industries, such as textiles and electronics, less competitive on world markets, forcing some plants to close and others to move offshore.

Policymakers said the government needed to spend more on construction projects and companies had to produce more high technology goods if the economy was to cope.

But they admitted they were having problems convincing the people of the overriding necessity of such action.

Wang Chien-Shien, vice-min-

ster at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, said the government was often unable to spend money on construction works because individuals refused to sell it land.

According to the law, we can force them to sell, Wang said. "But the government cannot enforce the law effectively. The government's power to enforce the law seems weak."

Liang Kuo-Shu, chairman of the government-controlled Chang Hwa Commercial Bank, said environmental concerns had also helped slow down investment delaying the construction of a nuclear power plant and two napping cracking plants.

The government would like to see some of the country's plants, small and medium-sized companies merge so that they can better compete on world markets, Li said.

The government has measures to encourage mergers, Li said. "But it has to have stronger hands to carry them out."

Economists said the government was likely to turn to outsiders for help in convincing its own people of the need for tough economic measures.

US official wants global securities cooperation

WASHINGTON, May 9: The world's securities markets are so closely linked that governments should begin harmonising their regulations to head off crises in the international financial system, according to the US comptroller general.

Computer and communications innovations will make securities markets around the world as unified in the next five to ten years as stock, futures and options markets are today in a single country, Comptroller General Charles A. Bowsher said last week.

Negotiator
The comptroller general is head of the General Accounting Office (GAO), an investigative arm of the US Congress.

"I think it is very important we get on top of the technology we have been inventing," he told the Senate Agriculture Committee. It is investigating the causes of the market crash last October and what should be done to

prevent a repeat.

Craig A. Simmons, associate director of the GAO for federal financial institutions, said in an interview after the committee hearing that one example of international links occurred on October 16, when markets in Chicago stopped trading in US Treasury bond futures because of heavy selling pressures. "All the trading went to the London markets," he said. Futures are contracts based on what traders believe the price of a security will be at a specified date in the future.

He noted that direct ties exist between the Canadian and Singapore futures markets, and that a particular corporate stock can often be traded in US as well as European

Dear Junior Readers,

Being able to laugh at our own mistakes and to see the humour in a difficult situation is a very special skill. Often we get so absorbed with how important we are that we take ourselves too seriously. It feels so good to be able to laugh at oneself when caught making a really silly mistake. Making such a mistake does not mean we are silly or stupid and laughing at such a time simply acknowledges that we are not perfect.

Try a good laugh next time you make a mistake instead of getting angry at yourself. You'll probably feel a lot better and learn more from the mistake.

Aunt Barbara

Doctor, doctor

Doctor, doctor, I'm allergic to perfume.
I'll have you sent to a specialist.

Doctor, doctor, I feel like Adrian Mole.
I'll just put that in my diary.

Doctor, doctor, I'm allergic to snuff.
That complaint is not to be sneezed at.

Doctor, doctor, are you sure this medicine will cure me?
Well, nobody's been back for a second bottle.

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a long-distance swimmer.

Can you wade a minute?

Two of a kind

Can you find the seven details common to both pictures?



THERE once was a king who took sick and believed he would never get well again. This grieved his three sons so much that they went down to the castle garden and wept. There an old man saw them and asked why they were so unhappy. They told him that their father was ill and nothing could save him.

But the old man said, "I know a remedy. It is called the water of life. If he drinks it, he will be saved. However, it is very difficult to find."

"I'll find it all right," said the eldest son. He went to the sick king and asked permission to go in search of the water of life, which alone could cure him.

"No," said the king. "I would rather die than let you risk your life on such a dangerous quest."

But the prince persisted until the king gave in. In his heart the prince also thought, "If I bring back the water, the king will love me best and I will inherit the kingdom."

And so he rode forth. When he had ridden for a time, he saw a dwarf standing in the middle of the road.

"Where are you off to in such a hurry?" called the dwarf.

"Never mind, little man," the prince replied haughtily. "It's none of your business," and he rode on. The dwarf was angered and at once cast an evil spell over the prince. Soon afterward, the prince came to a gorge, and the deeper he rode into it, the narrower it got, until he could go no farther. Nor could he turn his horse, nor dismount, but remained imprisoned where he was.

The sick king waited and waited for his son, but the prince did not return home. Then the second prince said, "Father, I will go in search of the water of life," and at the same time he thought, this is a good idea, for should my brother be dead, the kingdom will be mine.

As before, the king at first refused to let his son go but, in the end, gave in. The prince took the same path as his brother. He, too, met the dwarf, who hailed him and said, "Where to in such a hurry?"

"You gnome," the prince said insolently, "it's none of your business," and rode away. And the dwarf put a curse on the second prince who, like his brother, came to a gorge, and rode into it, until he

The water of life

could go neither backward nor forward. Such is the fate of the arrogant.

When the second prince failed to return, the king's youngest son announced that he would go in search of the water, and this time too, the king at first refused and was finally forced to give his consent. When the youngest prince came to the dwarf and was asked, "Where to in such a hurry?" he replied, "My father is dying and I am going in search of the water of life to save him."

"Do you know where to find it?"

"No," replied the prince.

"Well, I will tell you, because you spoke to me politely," said the dwarf. "It flows from a well in the enchanted castle. Take this iron rod and these two loaves of bread. You will need them. When you come to the castle gate, tap three times and it will open. Inside two lions will be lying in wait with their jaws agape. Throw a loaf of bread to each and they will be subdued. Then you must hurry and fetch the water of life before the clock strikes twelve, or the gate will shut by itself and you will be locked in."

The prince thanked the dwarf, took the rod and the loaves and went to the castle, where everything was as the dwarf had described it.

On his way, he again met the dwarf. When the dwarf saw the bread and the sword, he said, "These will bring you good fortune, for this sword can conquer whole armies and this loaf can never be eaten up."

Then the prince thought to himself, "I don't want to return home without my brothers." Aloud he said, "Dear dwarf, can you not tell me where my brothers are? They left before I did, to seek the water of life and did not return home."

"They sit imprisoned between two mountains," replied the dwarf. "I can't say where they are, but they were mighty men." The prince implored the dwarf to set his brothers free, and the dwarf in the end relented, but warned the prince saying, "Beware of them. They are evil-hearted."

When the prince saw his brothers arrive, he was overjoyed. He related to them how he had found the water of life and had brought back a beakerful.

He also told them about the beautiful princess whom he had freed and to whom he was to return in a year's time, when their wedding would take place, and a great kingdom would be his.

Together the brothers continued on their way. They came to a land where there was hunger and water, and whose king believed he must perish in need.

The youngest prince went to the king and gave him the loaf of bread. With it the king was able to feed his entire country. Then the prince gave the king his sword, and with it the king conquered the armies of his enemies and was able to live in peace and quiet.

The youngest prince took back his loaf of bread and his sword, and the three brothers rode on. But they came to two more countries where hunger and war reigned, and each time the youngest prince gave the sovereign the loaf and the sword, and in his way he saved three kingdoms.

Then the brothers embarked on a ship and sailed over the ocean.

During the journey the two elder brothers conferred together. "Our youngest brother found the water of life, and surely our father will give him the kingdom. We will be cheated out of our fortune, though it is rightfully ours by birth," they reasoned.

They became revengeful and agreed upon a plan that would destroy their brother. They waited until he was fast asleep, poured the water of life of its beaker and replaced it with bitter sea water, taking the water of life for themselves.

When they arrived home, the youngest son brought his beaker to the king so that he could drink the water of life and be cured. But the king had hardly touched the bitter sea water when he became sicker than ever before. Alas! he lay there moaning, the elder sons came in and accused the youngest of wanting to poison their father. They had found the true water of life, they said, and they gave it to the king to drink.

The king tasted it and at once felt his sickness disappearing. Soon he was as strong and healthy as in the days of his youth.



The elder brothers sought out their younger brother and mocked him.

"It's true, you found the water of life but though you did the work, we've collected the pay. Why didn't you keep your eyes open? We stole it while you slept on board ship, and when the year is out one of us will go and marry your beautiful princess. Just be sure that you don't betray us to our father. In any case, he won't believe a word you say, but mind, if you talk, you'll lose your life. Keep quiet and your life will be spared."

The old king was indeed angry at his son. He believed the youngest had really wanted to poison him. He called the court together and announced that he had condemned the prince to be secretly shot. So after the prince went hunting, and one of the king's hunters accompanied him. As they rode into the forest, the prince noticed that the hunter looked sad.

"Dear hunter," he asked, "what troubles you?"

"I should not tell you, but I must," the hunter replied.

"Out with it," urged the prince. "Whatever it is, I

will forgive you." "Alas," said the hunter, "I am to shoot you dead on the king's orders."

The prince grew frightened and said, "Dear hunter, spare my life and I will give you my princely clothes in exchange for your poor hunter's suit."

"That I will gladly do," the hunter said. "I could not have brought myself to kill you."

They exchanged clothing, and the prince continued on his way through the forest alone.

After a time, three wagons, full of gifts, gold and precious stones, arrived at the court for the youngest prince. They had been sent by the three kings to whom the prince had loaned his sword and loaf of bread so that they could defeat their enemies and feed their peoples.

The arrival of the gifts gave the king second thoughts. It occurred to him that perhaps his youngest son had not been guilty after all. He called his retainers together and said, "If only my son were still alive. How I regret that I had him killed."

"In that case, I did the right thing," spoke up the hunter. "I could not shoot

him," and he told the king what had taken place.

The king was overjoyed and let it be known in all the lands that he wished his son to return and that he would receive him with favour.

Now the princess had had the road leading to her castle paved with shining gold and had instructed her servants that only he who rode directly on it was her rightful bridegroom and was permitted to enter. Anyone who rode alongside it, however, was the wrong one and was to be turned away.

As the year was almost up, the eldest prince decided to hurry to the princess and present himself as her deliverer. He intended to marry her and claim her kingdom.

And so he rode forth, but when he arrived in the vicinity of the castle and saw the beautiful golden road, he said to himself, "It would be a pity to ride on such a road." He guided his horse to the right and trotted along next to the road. When he arrived at the castle gate, the guards told him he was not the right one and turned him away. Soon after, the second prince came to the castle. When his horse was about to set foot on the golden road, he thought, "It would be too bad to leave footprints on such a road." He signalled his horse to the left of it and continued on. When he got to the gates, the guards turned him back, saying he was not the right one either.

When the year was finally up, the youngest prince decided to leave the forest, seek out his beloved and forget his sufferings at her side. As he rode along, he thought only of her, wishing that he were already with her, and did not even notice the golden road. He rode his horse directly over it, and when he came to the gate, it was flung wide open, and the princess greeted him with joy. She proclaimed him her deliverer and ruler of her kingdom. The wedding was celebrated amidst rejoicing, and when it was over, the princess told him that his father had sent him and had forgiven him.

He rode back to the king and told him everything: how his brothers had betrayed him and how he had kept his silence. The old king wished to punish his elder sons, but they had sailed away on a ship, and never again returned home.

Factfile FROM THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

THE LARGEST FAMILY TREE IN THE WORLD WAS SUBMITTED TO THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS BY A MAN FROM IRELAND. IT CONTAINS THE NAMES OF 1,000,000 PEOPLE WHO ARE RELATED TO EACH OTHER.

MUSIC'S GREATEST COMPOSER WAS THE AUSTRIAN VIOLINIST AND COMPOSER JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1706). HE WAS ONCE DESCRIBED BY CELLO COMPOSER ROSS STRAVINSKY AS "A SIX-FOOT SCOWL".

THE LONGEST RUNNING BBC RADIO SERIES IS THE WEEKLY 6300 CALDER, WHICH BEGAN ON 24 JAN 1926. THE ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS CHORUS APPEARED BY CANNON GRIFFITHS BROWN ON 14 DEC 1986. RAISED A RECORD £185,034.

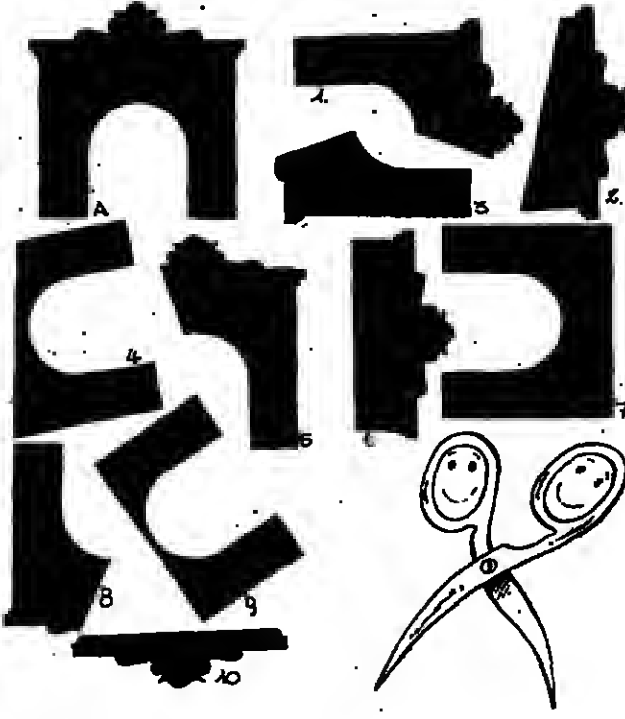
THE LONGEST RUNNING RADIO SERIES IS THE ARCHER, FIRST BROADCAST ON 28 MAY 1950. THE ONLY ROLE WHICH HAS BEEN PLAYED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION FROM THE START HAS BEEN THAT OF PHILIP ARCHER BY ACTOR NORMAN BAINBRIDGE.

THE HIGHEST RECORDED NUMBER OF LISTENERS TO A BBC RADIO BROADCAST WAS 10,000,000 ON 1 JUNE 1950 FOR THE BROADCASTING OF THE 1950 FOOTBALL WORLD CUP FINAL (1950) AND BRUCE WOODCOCK (1951).

THE LONGEST RUNNING RADIO SERIES IS THE ARCHER, FIRST BROADCAST ON 28 MAY 1950. THE ONLY ROLE WHICH HAS BEEN PLAYED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION FROM THE START HAS BEEN THAT OF PHILIP ARCHER BY ACTOR NORMAN BAINBRIDGE.

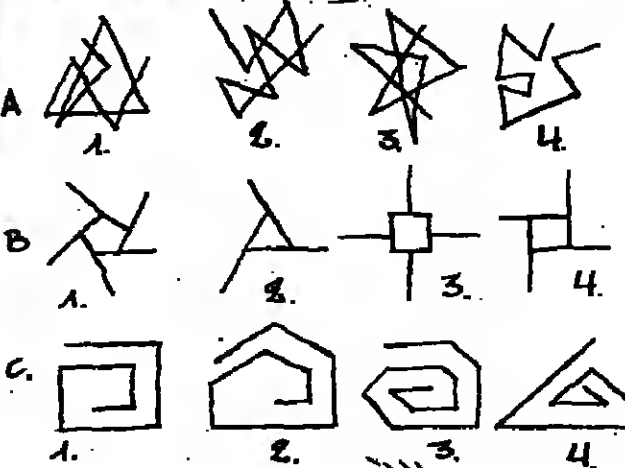
Arch-work

Can you pair up the ten numbered pieces to create five arches identical to A?



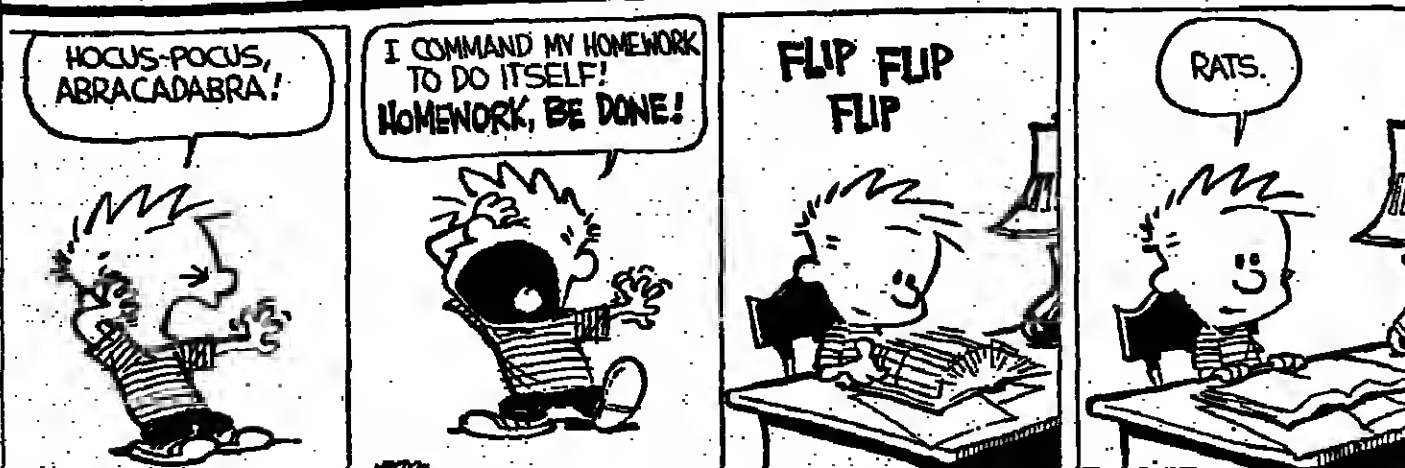
Odd one out

Which of the numbered figures in each of the lettered rows is the odd one out?



Two of a kind

These six pictures can be paired off, each pair having one detail in common. Which picture goes with which?



Jahangir crushes Adarraga

VALKENSWAARD, Netherlands, May 9 (AP): Jahangir Khan looked in top form yesterday, easily winning the opening match of his campaign to regain the World Open squash championship.

The Pakistani seemed untroubled by a recent wrist injury and brutally exposed Australian Justin Adarraga's tactical limitations to win his first round match 9-1 9-0 9-2 in 30 minutes.

Jahangir is seeded number two to meet compatriot, arch rival and defending champion Jansher Khan in the final.

Australians Chris Dittmar and Rodney Martin, ranked three and four in the world, are in Jahangir's half of the draw and each notched up comfortable wins in their opening matches.

The left-handed Dittmar, beaten by Jansher in the World Open final last year and the Paris Open 11 days ago, defeated Swedish number one Anders Wahlstedt 9-7 9-4 9-2.

Qualifier
Martin, who beat Jansher in the British Open last month, was untroubled by Australian qualifier Rodney Eyles, winning 9-3 9-4 9-1.

Pakistani Maqsood Ahmed, a former top 10 player who has slipped way down the rankings due to injury over the past 18 months, caused the one upset of the day by beating third-ranked Pakistani Zarak Khan 10-8 9-1 9-7.

The players have a rest day today and turn their attention to proposed controversial changes in the rules for Grand Prix circuit matches at the International Squash Players Association general meeting in Amsterdam.

Play resumes tomorrow in Amsterdam.

GP

VALLELUNGA, Italy, May 9 (AP): Gregor Foitek of Switzerland driving a Lola-Cosworth T88, won the Grand Prix of Rome in the second event of the World Formula 3 championships yesterday.

The 23-year-old, who started the race in pole position, covered the 200-km course in one hour, 13 minutes, 49.83 seconds.

LANCASHIRE MOVE TO TOP OF SUNDAY LEAGUE

Fairbrother hits Notts for ton

LONDON, May 9 (AP): Neil Fairbrother's hopes of holding a regular place with England after his poor winter tour received another boost yesterday when he scored his second century in three days against Nottinghamshire to help Lancashire to the top of the Refuge Assurance Sunday League.

Fairbrother almost won the match single-handed, hitting a six off the last ball to help his side to a two-wicket win.

He scored 101 in the current championship match and yesterday made an unbeaten 116, reaching his hundred off 97 balls with eight fours.

Paced
Derek Randall made 54 for Notts and Franklyn Stephenson weighed in with 43 to help the total to 202 for seven. But their efforts paled into insignificance as Fairbrother battered their attack.

Lancashire swept clear at the top after Gloucestershire lost a last-ball thriller to Northamptonshire and Middlesex could only share the points after being washed away by a storm at the Oval.

Alan Walker edged a four off the final delivery to give Northants victory following a rush of wickets which almost left a second wicket stand of 107 in 24 overs between Wayne Larkins and Allan Lamb meaning north-



Botham: two for 32

Lamb hit 59 in the chase to overhaul a modest 169 for seven but the loss of seven wickets for 27 runs set up a thrilling climax.

Meanwhile Somerset captain Peter Roebuck denied he had angrily confronted arch-rival Ian Botham after the former England skipper now with Worcestershire had brilliantly caught

and bowled him. Roebuck seemed to gesticulate in annoyance with his bat as Botham triumphantly celebrated in typical gladiatorial pose.

Botham was clearly more than happy at sending back the man he blames for his walk-out on Somerset two winters ago.

Botham finished with two for 32 from eight over as Somerset struggled to 145 for eight in their 40 overs. Worcester, Sunday League champions, went on to their first League victory of the season by seven wickets with Graeme Hick, back at the crease after his epic 405 not out on Friday, contributing 29.

Results
At Leicester: Lancashire v Kent — match abandoned without play. Lancashire two points, Kent two.

At Northampton: Northamptonshire beat Gloucestershire by one wicket. Gloucestershire 169 for seven innings closed (W. Athey 51). Northamptonshire 173 for nine innings closed (A. Lamb 59).

Northamptonshire four points.

At Derby: Essex beat Derbyshire by 59 runs. Essex 201 for five innings closed (B. Hardie 64, G. Gooch 54, P. Newman three for 30). Derbyshire 142 in 34.4 overs (D. Topple five for 25). Essex four points.

At the Oval: Surrey v Middlesex — match abandoned. Surrey 200 innings closed (D. Smith 54, M. Lynch 48, N. Williams four for 39). Middlesex 31 for three off 8.5 overs. Surrey two points.

At Taunton: Worcestershire beat Somerset by seven wickets. Somerset 145

for eight innings closed. Worcestershire 148 for three off 35.3 overs (T. Curtis 63). Worcestershire four points.

At Edgbaston: Yorkshire beat Warwickshire by 27 runs. Yorkshire 208 for seven innings closed (J. Love 43, M. Moxon 41). Warwickshire 181 for eight innings closed (A. Moles 79). Yorkshire four points.

At Trent Bridge: Lancashire beat Nottinghamshire by seven wickets. Nottinghamshire 202 for seven innings closed (D. Randall 54, F. Stephenson 43). Lancashire 208 for eight innings closed (N. Fairbrother 116 not out). Lancashire four points.

At Southampton: Hampshire beat Glamorgan by 60 runs. Hampshire 212 for five innings closed; M. Nicholas 63 not out, C. Smith 44, D. Turner 43. Glamorgan 152 for eight innings closed (J. Hopkins 40 not out, J. Ayling three for 31). Hampshire four points.

Standings
At Arundel: West Indies beat Duchess of Norfolk's XI by 66 runs in a 40 over-side match. West Indies 201 for five innings closed (A. Logie 53, C. Hooper 62, D. Haynes 50). Duchess of Norfolk's XI 133 for five innings closed (Iqbal Khan 56 not out, M. Marshall three for 7). Hampshire four points.

Standings in English Sunday League cricket after yesterday's matches (tabulate — played, won, lost, no result, points):

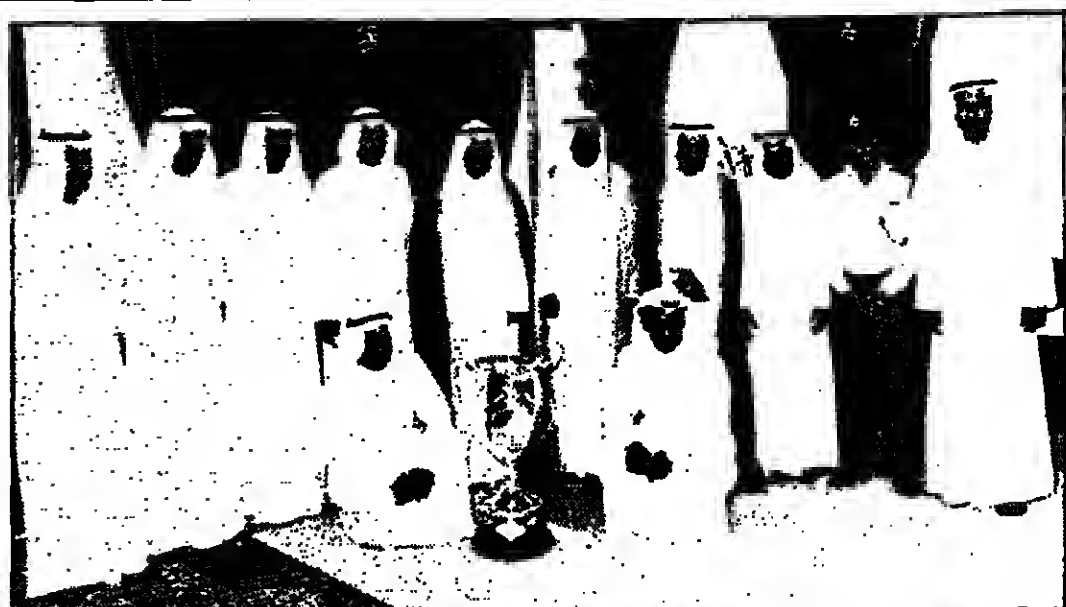
Lancashire	3	3	0	0	12
Middlesex	3	2	0	1	8
Essex	3	2	1	0	8
Gloucestershire	3	2	1	0	8
Derbyshire	3	1	1	1	6
Leicestershire	3	1	1	1	6
Yorkshire	3	1	0	2	6
Surrey	3	1	1	1	6
Northants	3	1	1	1	6
Nottinghamshire	3	1	2	0	4
Sussex	3	1	1	1	4
Warwickshire	3	1	2	0	4
Worcestershire	3	1	2	0	4
Somerset	3	0	3	0	0

Easy 100m win for Ashford

HAMAMATSU, Japan, May 9 (Reuters): American Evelyn Ashford declared herself on course to retain her Olympic 100 metres title in Seoul in September after an easy victory at the Shizuoka International athletics meeting yesterday.

The Los Angeles Olympic gold medalist blazed past second place finisher Zhang Xiaohong of China, although her winning time was about half a second slower than her world mark.

"My legs are tired after the flight over," explained Ashford, who clocked 11.23 seconds.



● A delegation from the Al Kuwait Sports Club met HH the Amir on Sunday. Al Kuwait won the Amir's Cup last Wednesday after beating Kazma in the final.

Stewart helps Athletics brush aside Indians

NEW YORK, May 9 (AP): It's too early for a showdown, Dave Stewart said. But he's got the Oakland Athletics headed toward showdown territory.

Stewart remained undefeated yesterday, beating the Cleveland Indians' 6-1 and sending the Oakland Athletics to a club-record 13th straight victory against another previously unbeaten pitcher, Greg Swindell.

In the rest of the AL, it was Texas 10, New York 8; Detroit 9, Seattle 3; Milwaukee 6, Kansas City 2 in 10 innings; Boston 10, Minnesota 6; and Baltimore 6, Chicago 5 in 10 innings.

In the National League it was New York 5, Cincinnati 1; Houston 7, Montreal 2; Philadelphia 5, Atlanta 1; Los Angeles 12, St. Louis 6; Chicago 13; San Francisco 7 and Pittsburgh 6, San Diego 2.

Mets 5, Reds 1
Ron Darling pitched a three-hitter as New York beat visiting Cincinnati for its fifth straight victory and 10th in 11 games.

The Mets took a 1-0 lead in the first inning off Mario Soto on a double by Tim Lincecum, an infield out, and a single by Darryl Strawberry.

The Mets added four runs in the seventh, three on run-scoring singles by Howard Johnson, Kevin Elster and Keith Hernandez.

The Mets are 6-0 against the Reds this year.

Phillies 5, Braves 1
Bruce Ruffin pitched a three-hitter and retired the last 19 batters as Philadelphia beat the Braves at Atlanta.

Ruffin, 3-2, walked one and struck out four.

With the score tied 1-1 in the sixth, Von Haxen singled with two outs and Chris James followed with his third home run.

Astros 7, Expos 2
Bob Knepper allowed seven hits in seven-plus innings and Denny Walling drove in two runs, leading Houston over Montreal at Olympic stadium.

Knepper, 4-0, who walked only six coming in to the game, struggled with his control against the Expos. He walked five and had a wild pitch, all in the first four innings.

Knepper leads the NL with an 0.77 earned run average.

Dodgers 12, Cardinals 6
Mike Marshall's two-run double keyed a three-run fifth inning rally and Mike Davis had four hits and drove in three runs as visiting Los Angeles routed St. Louis.

The Dodgers then hammered Jose DeLeon and reliever Steve Peters for five hits and seven runs in the seventh, including Davis' two-run triple.

Don Sutton, 2-2, allowed six hits and five runs in seven innings en route to his 323rd career victory.

Jaguar score 3rd straight victory

SILVERSTONE, England, May 9 (Reuters): Jaguar scored their third successive World Sportscar Championship victory yesterday in a tight race against Mercedes.

Two factory Jaguars and two Mercedes battled throughout the 1,000 kms test until Martin Brundle of Britain and his American partner Eddie Cheever edged home by 36 seconds.

Mercedes were second and third, with world championship leader Jean-Louis Schlesser of France and West German Jochen Mass finishing two laps ahead of team-mates James Weaver of Britain and Mauro Baldi of Italy.

The other Jaguar, shared by Johnny Dumfries of Britain and Dutchman Jan Lammers, ran out of fuel with just six laps of the 210-lap race remaining.

Result (1,000 kms — 210 laps): 1. Martin Brundle (Britain)/Eddie Cheever (US) Jaguar four hours 50 minutes 48.59 seconds (207.02 kph); 2. Jean-Louis Schlesser (France)/Jochen Mass (West Germany) Mercedes 4:51:24.20; 3. Mauro Baldi (Italy)/James Weaver (Britain) Mercedes 208 laps; 4. Derek Bell/Tiff Needell (Britain) Porsche 205; 5. Bob Wollek (France)/David Hobbs (Britain)/Philippe Streiff (France) Porsche 201.

The Seyassah and Arab Times newspapers, in cooperation with Messilah Beach Hotel are organising

KUWAIT'S 2ND BI-ANNUAL OFFSHORE POWERBOAT RACE

to be held on Friday, June 3rd, 1988.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Boats must be at least 18 ft in length.
- Engines must be outboard. If a single engine boat is used, an additional 10hp engine is advised. A maximum of two engines are allowed.
- Crew must have a minimum of two persons. All must be at least 18 years of age.
- Date: June 3, 1988.
- The boat must be registered with the port authority of Kuwait, or if the boat is from outside Kuwait, with the authority for its port of origin.

Safety Requirements

- All participants must have the following equipment:
 - A helmet and protective glasses.
 - Lifejackets (inflatable life jackets not permitted).
 - A marine compass (advanced electronic navigation equipment is prohibited).
 - Anchor suitable for the size of the boat and a 25 metre (minimum) rope.
 - At least three red safety flares.
 - Boats must be adequately supplied with fuel sufficient to cover the race distance.
 - Any battery or fuel tank leakages must be well-checked and repaired before the race.
 - Each boat should carry either a telephone or a 2 way radio system.

Failure to comply with the above regulations and safety requirements will result in disqualification. Scrutineering will be held prior to the race, and competitors must display their safety equipment on the deck of the boat. Bulletins detailing further requirements/information will be issued from time to time.

- Participation is open to all Gulf Citizens and residents who have lived in the Gulf for a minimum of six months.
- Last date for accepting entries is May 30, 1988.

Entry fee per person KD 15.000



The 61.1 Nautical mile race will start from the beach opposite the Messilah Beach Hotel.

Official Sponsors



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Same day as
Kuwait 2nd Annual Half Day

WORLD NO. 5 TAKES \$40,000 TOP PRIZE

Sabatini holds off Kelesi for title



Sabatini: had a difficult second set

ROME, May 9, (UPI): Second seed Gabriela Sabatini, battling to live up to her tournament favourite's role, held off a charge from injured Canadian Helen Kelesi yesterday to take the title at the \$200,000 Italian Open women's tennis championships 6-1, 6-7 (4-7), 6-1.

Argentina's Sabatini, touted to win the \$40,000 top prize after the injury defection Thursday of top-ranked Chris Evert, got into a struggle with the 18-year-old Kelesi on a blistering hot and humid day at the Foro Italico.

Sliding

Kelesi, the world No. 10, was nursing a slight groin strain, the result of what she said was two weeks of sliding on Italian clay courts.

"Maybe I lost some of my motivation here," Sabatini said. "But despite losing, I think I played well in the second set. Helen looked very tired out there."

Kelesi, whose parents fled the 1968 uprising in Czechoslovakia

the year before she was born, stormed back to win the second set after changing match strategy in an effort to shake off a case of centre court nerves.

"I had a hard time finding the court in the first set," said Kelesi, winner last Sunday of a minor tournament in Taranto, in southern Italy.

"But in the second, I tried to just concentrate on the ball. I was tiring and the points seemed so long."

Kelesi levelled the sets to brilliant fashion after winning only two points her first two times at serve in the opening set.

The Canadian won the first game of the second set, but Sabatini made it 1-1 and hisistered in two successive aces to save break points in the fourth game.

Kelesi got her first break of the 17-year-old Argentine's service in the sixth game as Sabatini began to feel the heat and delivered a weak backhand push into the net to lose.

The title favourite lost serve in the 10th game for 5-5 and slum-

ped to 5-6 as Kelesi held. Sabatini rallied to force the hour-long set to a tiebreak finish at 6-6, but lost 4-7 to throw the match into a decider.

Despite what she termed a sub-par performance, Sabatini said she emerged satisfied after victory in her first major tournament.

"I'm always happy when I win, but may be with Chris not playing, I lost some motivation here."

Sabatini world No. 5, praised Kelesi's fightback.

"She was tough and confident. She didn't make too many mistakes," the Argentine said.

Boosted

Kelesi pronounced herself "pleased with my tennis in the second set," after the draining two-and-a-half hour outing.

The hard-fought victory boosted Sabatini to a 4-0 career record over Kelesi.

The Canadian's winning set yesterday in front of 7,500 fans was only the second she had ever taken from Sabatini.

Snowden takes Player of the Year award

CASUALS Cricket Club held its annual general meeting and awards ceremony on Thursday evening, wherein next year's officials were elected.

Pride of place went to club captain Richard Snowden who was voted Player of the Year and presented with an engraved shield by retiring chairman Tim Stafford. The other awards went to: Steve Anderson — Best Bowler, Val Tudball — Best Batting and Roger Lewis — Best Fielder.

Honour

Casuals also bade farewell to four players. Sushant Dubey will be remembered as a fine wicket-keeper and stylish batsman who also had the honour of getting the highest individual score of the season.

Dave Dowrick, another fine batsman, is also set to leave the club. Roger Lewis leaves to set up a duck farm in Wales but his def-



Snowden: top player

ness on the field will be used as an example to others. Finally Casuals bade farewell to Frank Davis, an excellent fielder with a batting average of 20 runs this season. Davis leaves to take up a teaching job in Africa.

Next year's officials will be: captain — Richard Snowden; vice-captain — Val Tudball; treasurer — Steve Anderson; team secretary — Simon E.T. Clements and club secretary Tim Stafford.

Agassi edges Zivojinovic for crown

NEW YORK, May 9, (AP): Andre Agassi won his fourth match in 45 hours, beating Slobodan Zivojinovic 7-5, 7-6 (7-2), 7-5 yesterday in the final of the Tournament of Champions.

It was the third title of the year for the 18-year-old from Las Vegas, Nevada, who also won last week's US Clay Court Championship and the US Indoor championship in February.

Agassi, the first American to win the TOC since John McEnroe beat Ivan Lendl in the 1984 final, said he wasn't bothered by his heavy playing schedule the last three days.

Because of rain delays, the fifth-seeded Agassi and No. 8 Zivojinovic each had to finish one match Friday night and play two more Saturday.

Rankings

"I was too excited to get tired," said Agassi, who has moved up to No. 15 in the world rankings. "I was a little fatigued, but I came out and gave it my best shot."

Agassi, who didn't lose a set in the tournament, used his powerful groundstrokes to keep his Yugoslavian opponent on the run before a crowd of 12,898 at the West Side Tennis Club.

Zivojinovic, who relies heavily on his booming serve, did not take advantage of his main weapon. He had only three aces — the same as Agassi — and was broken seven times while getting only 51 per cent of his first serves in.

"I was feeling a little tired," said Zivojinovic, ranked 31st in the world. "But I am happy with the way I played all week."

Perez-Roldan overcomes Svensson

MUNICH, West Germany, May 9, (Reuters): Argentina's Guillermo Perez-Roldan won the \$202,000 Bavarian international men's tennis tournament yesterday for the second successive year, beating Jonas B. Svensson of Sweden 7-5, 6-3 in the final.

The 18-year-old sixth seed took just 84 minutes to win the fourth Grand Prix title of his career.

After a shaky start when the Swede's aggressive serve and volleys caused him some difficulty, Perez-Roldan squeezed through to win the first set. But he was firmly in command in the second.

Better

Svensson, world-ranked 23rd, felt he made too many mistakes. "Guillermo was just far better than me today," said fifth seed Svensson, who on Saturday beat second seed Emilio Sanchez of Spain 6-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Perez-Roldan said: "For me this win today was special as it was here in Munich that I won my first major tournament."

In his semifinal on Saturday, Perez-Roldan ousted Australian Wally Masur, who earlier in the tournament beat the top seed, Anders Jarryd of Sweden.

Lendl wins

EDE, Holland, May 9, (UPI): World No. 1 Ivan Lendl beat Australian John Frawley 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 yesterday to win the Ede Invitational exhibition event.

Lendl picked up a cheque for \$50,000 for winning the event and another \$90,000 appearance money.

Milan move two points clear of Napoli

ROME, May 9, (Reuters): Rudd Gullit's AC Milan stood one point away from the Italian soccer title with one match remaining as champions Napoli fell 3-2 to Fiorentina yesterday.

Milan could have clinched the crown with a win over Juventus but were held 0-0 at home. The result put them two points clear of Napoli, playing without injured Argentine World Cup captain Diego Maradona for the first time this season.

Milan, who last won the championship in 1979 and snatched the lead with a 2-2 win over Napoli last Sunday, have 44 points to Napoli's 42. The teams have an identical goal difference.

Napoli's sole hope of retaining the title they thought they had sewn up until a few weeks ago would be if Milan lost against Como next week and Napoli beat Sampdoria at home.

Fiorentina scored the first goal of the day after just eight minutes

through Alberto di Chiara, who took the ball from Napoli defender Salvatore Bagni outside the area, dummed a pass and hit a diagonal shot into the left corner of the net.

Previous

But Napoli, who had only played without Maradona on two previous occasions since he joined the club and had won both times' hit back in the 25th minute through Ciro Ferrara.

The young Italian international picked up a rebound from a free kick from Alessandro Renica and slotted home.

Fiorentina's Argentine centre forward Ramon Diaz quickened the pace in the second half, hitting an angled shot from the left into the net in the 58th minute and increasing the lead in the 71st. Renica rallied his demoralised team mates with a consolation goal in the penultimate minute.

Maradona, top League goals-

corer this season with 15 goals, pulled a muscle in his thigh during last Sunday's match against Milan and watched his defeated team from the stands.

Milan, with Dutch striker Marco van Basten on the bench for the first half, saw European Footballer of the Year Gullit come close to scoring. But Juventus, for home defeat would have meant an end to European competition next season, kept him out.

Juvevotus, with veteran Italian international Gaetano Scirea playing his last match for the club, are vying with city rivals Torino and Internazionale for just two remaining UEFA places.

Scirea, 35, and one of Italy's most capped players, marred his final appearance with a caution for dangerous play.

Torino beat Roma 2-0 to push their claim while Inter saw a 2-0 lead over Cesena evaporate to a

2-2 draw. At the bottom of the league, Empoli, penalised five points from the start of the season for involvement in a match-rigging scandal, was relegated to the Second Division with a 1-0 defeat at Avellino; also threatened with the drop.

Results

Avellino	1	Empoli	0
Cesena	2	Internazionale	2
Fiorentina	3	Napoli	2
Milan	0	Juventus	0
Parma	0	Ascoli	0
Sampdoria	0	Pisa	0
Torino	2	Roma	0
Verona	0	Como	1

Leading standings (tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points).

AC Milan	29	17	10	2	42	13	44
Napoli	29	18	6	5	54	25	42
Roma	29	14	8	7	38	26	36
Sampdoria	29	12	11	6	39	29	35
Internazionale	29	11	9	9	41	34	31
Juventus	29	11	9	9	24	28	31
Torino	29	8	15	6	33	28	31

Getting reappointed captain

LONDON, May 9, (AP): Mike Gatting, under whose leadership England has failed to win any of its last 13 Test matches, was reappointed team captain today — but only for a trial period.

The 30-year-old Middlesex batsman has been put on charge of this month's three one-day internationals against the West Indies, and the first two Tests of the five-Test series.

"Everybody is on trial when they play for England," Peter May, chairman of selectors, said. "I'm delighted Mike has accepted because I believe he is the right person to give us the right start to the summer. He is very determined to get us back on

course and if we can get our selections right I'm sure we'll have a very good season."

Gatting, who took over from David Gower 22 matches and nearly two years ago, has had no success for 13 games. Last winter, he was involved in an acrimonious dispute with umpire Shakoor Rana that almost led to England out of its tour of Pakistan.

But May said: "We are looking ahead. Last winter is behind us and we have to think positively about the summer. We haven't won a Test for so long because we haven't bowled sides out twice. I find it difficult to hang that on the captain's shoulders."

Reynolds triumphs

COLUMBUS, Ohio, May 9, (UPI): World-ranked No. 2 Butch Reynolds finished ahead of his younger brother Jeff to easily win the 400 metres and two American records left yesterday at the Jesse Owens Classic in Ohio stadium.

Reynolds had little trouble in winning his specialty in a field that included his younger brother, Jeff.

Reynolds, whose 44.10 a year ago in the Owens Classic is still the best run at sea level, did 45.55 in winning yesterday.

Blushing John finishes first

PARIS, May 9, (Reuters): Hot favourite Blushing John, ridden by Freddie Head, held off Cash Asmussen's mount French Stress in the Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000 Guineas) by a nose at Longchamp yesterday.

English-trained outsider Tay Wharf, ridden by Steve Caution, was two lengths away in third place in the one mile event.

A furlong and a half from home, Blushing John was trapped on the rails in mid-division in the field of 10, but found a gap and led a furlong (200 metres) out.

Head, who was riding the winner of this race for the third time, said: "The race was not run as I had hoped. Blushing John was drawn badly and I decided to stick along the rails rather than waste ground on the outside."

Murthwaite takes top bridge honours again



Some of the winners with their prizes.

LOLLO MURTHWAITE stole the show again on Saturday when she was named Messiah Ladies Bridge Club's Player of the Year. Murthwaite, who earlier in the week took a similar award from the Sheraton Ladies Bridge Club, again pushed her partner Nahil Akel into second

place. Murthwaite, who had been dominated by her partner for a number of years, has been playing very well since the start of the season. It was also to her advantage that Nahil took a two-month break from bridge.

Nahil, in spite of staying away

from bridge for this duration, proved that she is still among the best in Kuwait by finishing close behind Murthwaite.

Lyn Edwards took the third position while Pearl Leavy was fourth. Jamila, Nahil's mother, again made sure that there were at least two members of the

family among the top five by taking the fifth position.

The Messiah Ladies Bridge Club also held its End of the Year Tournament on Saturday. The tournament was organised by Nahil.

In this tournament, Sandra Turvey and Dona Matterny were

Langer scores victory

CHEPSTOW, Wales, May 9, (AP): Bernhard Langer overcame the back problems that have been worrying him since the start of the season to snatch victory yesterday in the Epsom Grand Prix of Europe Match-play Golf Championship.

The 30-year-old West German, playing in his first European tournament this year, used a new putter to roll home seven birdies and beat South African Mark McNulty by 4 and 3 in the final.

Langer, with little to show for his exploits on the American cir-

cuit in 1988, had taken the last two weeks off to return to Germany and receive treatment for a stress fracture and bulging discs in his back.

In the semifinal, Langer had beaten Australian Rodger Davis by one hole but "putted like a blind man."

Between rounds he changed to a heavier putter, with more loft, and the transformation was little short of miraculous.

Langer had eight single putts against McNulty and was five under par when he polished off his opponent on the 15th green.

Koch clinches top spot

LAS VEGAS, May 9, (Reuters): American Gary Koch, a tour ace-winner since 1984, rallied from three shots behind yesterday to win the \$1.4 million Las Vegas Invitational golf tournament with a 72-hole score of 14-under-par 274.

Koch, a winner five times before in his career, had plummeted to 175th on the money list in 1987 and entered this event as a sponsor choice.

He responded with rounds of 68, 73, 66 and 67 on the final day to overtake compatriot and third round leader Curt Byrum and claim the \$250,000 first place cheque, the largest of his career.

He began the day three strokes behind Byrum, but birdied the first two holes to pull closer and took the lead for good when he birdied the par-four 12th hole to go 15-under-par.

Koch bogeyed the par-three 14th hole to drop to 14-under-par but parred his way around to finish at that figure.

Supplement on powerboat racing

Arab Times and Seyassah newspapers are sponsoring an Offshore Powerboat Race, to be held in Kuwait on June 3, 1988. They are preparing a special programme supplement, which will feature editorial about powerboat racing, as well as photographs of past races. It will also contain the regulations for the event. Every competitor, both from within and from outside Kuwait will receive a copy.

The supplement will be produced in English and Arabic, and the copies will be distributed free at the participating hotels and to competitors. Those interested in advertising in the publication should contact Liza 2418738 or 2418730.

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